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Saipan Tribune

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9 Saipan mayoral bets present priorities. **PAGE 2**

Cager, woman arrested for alleged 'ice' distribution. **PAGE 5**

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OPINION METER

This week's poll:

Did you stock up on emergency supplies to prepare for Typhoon Melor?

Let your voice be heard! Go to www.saipantribune.com to cast your vote.

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of October 7, 2009

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmipheoc@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE

Masters of Light

The next time you snap a digital photo and post it to Facebook, you can probably thank the three men who won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday.

World...Page 16

DeLay Booted Out

Politician Tom DeLay and actress Debi Mazar have turned in their last dance. Both are leaving "Dancing With the Stars."

Life & Style...Page 21

Shell, Mobil cut prices by 10 cents

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Shell Marianas and Mobil Oil Marianas' first price rollback for the year will bring back the pump prices to what they used to be prior to their last price hike on Aug. 30.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Shell Marianas and Mobil Oil Marianas yesterday reduced the pump prices of fuel by 10 cents a gallon, over a month after the two oil giants raised their prices also by 10 cents a gallon.

This is Mobil and Shell's

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CHAMBER TO US CONGRESS

Delay federalization to 2010

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Arenovski

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce has asked U.S. House Natural Resources Committee chair Rep. Nick Rahall II (D-WV) and at least 69 other members of the U.S. Congress to delay the start of federal immigration control in the CNMI until Dec. 1, 2010, citing lack of preparations by federal agencies.

The largest organization of businesses in the CNMI said a one-year delay would allow the U.S. Department of Homeland Security to carry out the U.S. Congress' in-

See DELAY on Page 4

TANTALIZING VISIONS

Historian and author Dirk H.R. Spennemann shows his camera and six of the 36 images of people and places in today's CNMI showcased at the "Tantalizing and Troubling Visions," an exhibition of his photographic works. The exhibit, held last night at the NMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan, featured photographs taken using a unique method of photography called "Through The Viewfinder" or TTV, a process that involves the capturing of images broadcast on the viewfinder of an antique camera, by a newer high-quality digital camera.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Herman T. Palacios, 66

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Palacios

Former Rep. Herman T. Palacios passed away in Honolulu on Oct. 1 of complications from lingering illnesses. He was 66 and would have been 67 on Nov. 1.

Palacios was a member of the 8th, 9th, 11th and 13th Legislatures, according to the House clerk's office. He was chairman of the House Sub-

See HERMAN on Page 4

Samoans plan new lives away from the sea

KENI LESA
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

LALOMANU, Samoa (AP)— Samoans who fled to the hills as a deadly tsunami tore through their villages last week began searching for materials to build new homes far above the sea that washed away their dwellings and many loved ones.

The tsunami claimed another life Monday as a woman who had been rescued from the raging waters died from her injuries in Samoa's Apia Hospital, police said. The death toll stood at 178, with 137 killed in Samoa, 32 in American Samoa,

See SAMOANS on Page 4

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SEE INSIDE FOR DETAILS *Terms and conditions apply

Local

9 Saipan mayoral bets present priorities

Benavente

Camacho

Demapan

Flores

Sanchez

Taman

Tenorio

Tudela

Villagomez

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The nine candidates for Saipan mayor yesterday presented their individual platforms to members and guests of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, but some of them ran out of time to read their entire prepared speech and instead distributed campaign flyers and brochures instead.

The Chamber gave the candidates only four minutes each to present their platform.

Almost all of the candidates spoke of preserving the beauty of Saipan and in improving the lives of residents, while some offered unique ideas to be able to make a difference and try to win people's votes in the Nov. 7 elections.

Chamber vice president Doug Brennan presented the candidates as follows: Marian DLG. Tudela, Angelo O. Villagomez, Juan S. Demapan, Donald P. Flores, Antonio Camacho, Roman Benavente, Jose DLG. Sanchez, Lino Tenorio, and Candido Taman.

Tudela, the only woman candidate for mayor, said she will bring to the office her experiences as a former chair of the Saipan Municipal Council in which she became acquainted with the process of promulgating regulations and municipal ordinances for Saipan and worked closely with the mayor.

Villagomez, who was the only candidate in coat and tie, stressed the importance of enhancing Saipan as a tourist destination and as a safe community through beautification projects, cleanups, dog control program and enforcement of the CNMI Litter Control Act, among other things.

He said one of his first tasks will be to conduct an audit to determine the effectiveness of the Saipan Mayor's Office.

Demapan, for his part, said his immediate focus would be to create jobs and train local residents whom he defined as "CNMI and U.S. citizens and nothing more."

He also spoke of a comprehensive "Beautify Saipan" plan which includes solid waste collection stations; turning Saipan into a major college town for Asian students; Saipan people's involvement in the $15-billion military buildup on Guam; and the operation of a mass transit given the high cost of fuel.

"But the municipality of Saipan cannot move forward without putting a stop to the ever-interfering central government," he added.

Besides beautification projects, Flores said he will also focus on the Saipan Higher Education Financial Assistance (SHEFA) scholarship program, among other things.

Camacho said the mayor's office has always functioned on an "assumption basis," and it has been on the mercy of the Legislature. He said he will work with the Legislature and other agencies to ensure the mayor's office will have its independence.

Benavente, a former Board of Education chair and member, said he is someone who will "get the work done."

Sanchez read his mission as a mayoral hopeful: To improve and implement essential services for the communities of Saipan, and to establish programs that would nurture our youth into civic-minded, responsible adults…"

Tenorio, a former secretary of the Department of Corrections, made a pitch about making full use of inmates for beautification projects on Saipan.

In an interview, he said if elected mayor, he would enter into a memorandum of understanding with Corrections, the Board of Parole, the Office of Adult Probation, and other agencies to maximize this resource.

Taman, for his part, spoke of short-term and long-term plans focused on the development of a subsistence farming and fishing industry, road paving projects, trade/vocational training program, stray animal shelter program, addressing crime rate and education and youth programs, as well as building a cultural performing arts center and putting up a trash disposal transfer station.

No question-and-answer or debate followed each candidate's platform presentation.

Fitial, Hosfchneider top CREAM mock poll

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Rep. Heinz Hofschneider topped the mock poll conducted recently by the Coalition for the Recognition, Equality and Advancement of American Minorities.

The mock poll favored the incumbent governor who got 71 percent of the votes cast followed by Hofschneider, who garnered 17 percent of the total votes.

Fitial is the standard-bearer for Covenant Party, while Hofschneider is endorsed by the Republican Party. The two other gubernatorial candidates are independent Juan "Pan" T. Guerrero and Ramon "Kumoi" Deleon Guerrero. Juan Pan came in third with 12 percent of the vote.

According to CREAM, led by president Emi Pamintuan, the two top picks are scheduled to meet face to face in a debate. Details of the event are being finalized as of press time.

Saipan Tribune learned that a total of 262 votes were cast during the mock election at Minatchum Atdao pavilion in Susupe.

The group said the turnout was lower than expected because of Typhoon Melor, which hit Saipan the day before the mock election.

"…but still this is statistically significant," the group said.

Pamintuan said CREAM's goal is to invite Fitial and Hofschneider to a debate where various issues will be tackled.

The two are expected to present their campaign platforms specifically about the economy, utilities, Retirement Fund issues, education, health, and other concerns.

Pamintuan said the group is currently coordinating with the Covenant Party and GOP for the planned debate.

"We are hopeful that they will confirm to come on the date that we have proposed as soon as possible so we may inform our members and the rest of the community," the group said, adding it is open for topic suggestions and questions for the gubernatorial debate.

Members believe that a debate will provide a platform where the candidates can delve deeper into issues and create an avenue for voters to make informed decisions come Nov. 7.

The group, last week, also launched a relief drive for the victims of Typhoon Ondoy in the Philippines.

Pamintuan said in-kind donations have been received and the monetary assistance now amounts to $526.86.

The group would like to ask individuals to give cash or in-kind donations to help provide relief to the estimated 400,000 victims of the Typhoon Ondoy which hit the Philippines last Sept. 29.

Wiseman orders deportation of Korean convicted over pirated DVDs, VHS tapes

Superior Court Associate Judge David A. Wiseman yesterday ordered the deportation of a Korean man who was convicted in federal court in connection with the seizure of thousands of pirated DVDs and VHS tapes at a video shop.

Wiseman said after the hearing, he finds by clear and convincing evidence that Min Jo, a citizen of the People's Republic of Korea, is a deportable alien in that he was convicted of one felony.

Wiseman said Jo pleaded guilty to the offense of trafficking in counterfeit labels.

The judge ordered the exoneration of the cash bail that Jo posted, prior to his departure from the Commonwealth.

"If the respondent is not in possession of a valid passport he is ordered to cooperate with the Attorney General's Investigation Unit in obtaining a new Korean passport or travel document so he may be repatriated expeditiously," said Wiseman in a written order.

Immigration investigator Nicolas T. Reyes stated in his report that Jo was issued a non-resident worker's entry permit which expired on March 22, 2008.

Reyes said that on Dec. 9, 2008, Jo pleaded guilty to trafficking in counterfeit labels during a hearing in the U.S. District Court for the NMI.

Reyes said the court placed the defendant on three years of probation and referred to the Immigration for deportation proceedings.

Jo and his manager, Il Cho, were arrested a few weeks after the Federal Bureau of Investigation raided Seoul Video Store in Chalan Kanoa on March 26, 2008.

After the arrest, Cho and Jo admitted that they purchased DVDs from Korea and were copying them onto VHS tapes for sale and rent to customers.

Cho also entered a guilty plea and was given the same sentence. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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Garapan Central Park	Oct. 22
Southern Saipan (TBA)	Oct. 29
Northern Saipan (TBA)	Nov. 5

These are critical and challenging times for us all. Our Commonwealth needs honest and visionary leadership as much as it needs caring, well-informed, and active citizens who will voice their concerns, hold their elected leaders accountable, and get involved in the effort to make our community a better place to live and visit. For my own part, I remain committed to realizing our collective vision for a just, prosperous, and sustainable Commonwealth now and in the years to come.

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1.2 K ballots sent out to absentee voters

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Commonwealth Election Commission executive director Robert A. Guerrero said his office has mailed a total of 1,200 ballots for absentee voters this week.

He said absentee voters are expected to mail the documents on or before election day to become valid for counting.

For this year's general election, CEC printed out nearly 20,000 ballots to cover the anticipated regular and absentee voters in the Commonwealth.

Guerrero earlier disclosed that they are expecting a bigger turnout of voters in the Nov. 7 polls, where 110 candidates are running for more than 40 seats in the government.

Last Monday, the election board approved the conduct of public education on the four initiatives approved for people's ratification.

Guerrero disclosed yesterday that the board approved the printing of educational materials in the form of a booklet for all the initiatives.

These included House Legislative Initiative 15-3, which calls for the people's approval on the selection of a student representative and teachers' representative to the Public School System, as well as proposed schools annual budget of not less than 15 percent of the general revenues of the CNMI; House Legislative 16-11 which will prohibit the withdrawal of any funds from the general fund except for appropriations made by law; House Legislative Initiative 16-11, which proposes the holding of regular general elections only in even-numbered years; and the popular initiative to subject the Legislature to the provisions of the Open Government Act.

"We will also start preparing for the public education hearings for these initiatives," Guerrero said, adding that the efforts will run all the way through the week of the election on Nov. 7.

The executive director said that besides the public forums and hearings, newspaper advertisements and posters will also be among the other media to be used by the agency to effectively disseminate and educate people.

The board also adopted an emergency regulation pertaining to the additional counting machines to be used in the election.

As of Oct. 1, CEC recorded a total of 16,146 registered voters on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

From the figure, Election District 1 recorded the highest registered voters with 4,331. These include San Antonio, 800; San Vicente, 2,455; and Koblerville, 1,076.

Election District 2 covering Chalan Kanoa and Susupe totaled 1,246 voters as of Oct. 1.

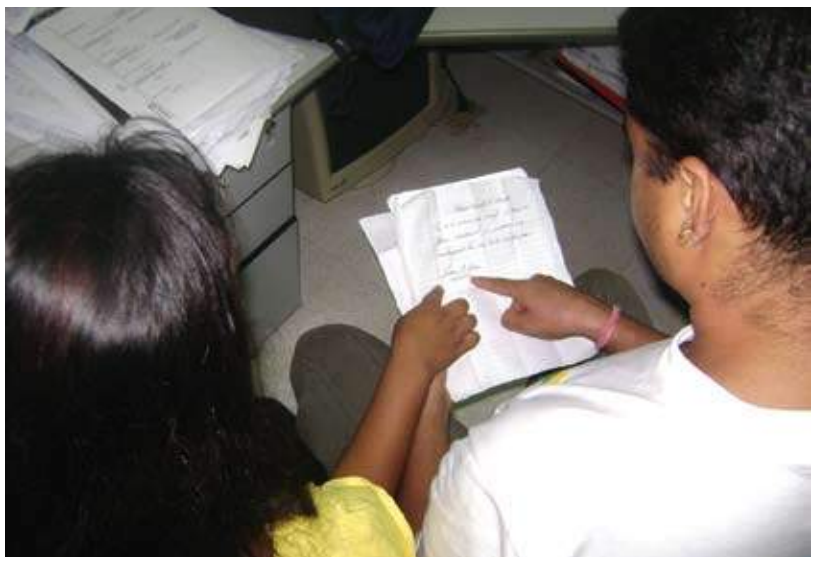
Meanwhile, Election District 3 has 3,363 voters of which 2,469 are from Garapan while 894 are from Oleai.

Election District 4 has 1,768 voters—640 from Tanapag; 562 from San Roque; 418 from Capitol Hill; and 148 from Northern Islands.

Kagman, which belong to Election District 5, has 2,380 registered voters.

Tinian has 1,436 voters, while Rota has 1,622 as of last week.

The law mandates that the registration period ended last Sept. 18. However, applications postmarked on or before the date are still valid for registration.



FERDIE DE LA TORRE
Gita Chapagai and her boyfriend, Madhav Pandey, point to a piece of paper where former House Speaker Oscar Rasa acknowledged receiving $350 from them allegedly as processing fee at Labor. The two Nepalese said they paid a total of $445 to Rasa who allegedly promised he would give Chapagai job at a hotel.

Jobless Nepalese says former House Speaker deceived her

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A jobless Nepalese woman has complained that former House Speaker Oscar Rasa deceived her and her boyfriend to pay him $445 in exchange for helping her get a job at a hotel.

Gita Chapagai, 25, and her boyfriend, Madhav Pandey, said Rasa claimed he is close to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and that he knows everybody at the Department of Labor.

The two Nepalese said that, after they gave the last payment on Aug. 18, 2009, Rasa has avoided them.

When asked for comment about the complaint, Rasa admitted that he received money from the Nepalese. He said he is willing to give back the money because he could not help Chapagai because she is not qualified for the position she is applying for.

Rasa said the money is only $350. He also denied he is avoiding the Nepalese, saying he has a new cellphone number.

Pandey said Rasa, his acquaintance, promised to help Chapagai get a job at the Saipan World Resort as a waitress.

Pandey said Rasa asked for money to process the papers at Labor and claimed he would return the money if no job is available.

Pandey said that they first gave $70 to Rasa at the Covenant Party's headquarters on Aug. 9, 2009.

He said the former House Speaker asked for the money apparently because he was going to see Fitial and that he had no gasoline for his car.

Showing a copy of an acknowledgment of receipt, Pandey said they gave $350 to Rasa the following day for processing fee at Labor.

The Nepalese said that on Aug. 18, 2009, they handed $25 more to Rasa outside D' Elegance Cafe in Garapan after Rasa called and asked money for beer.

Rasa allegedly told him that he was paying beer for a Labor employee who has been helping him process Chapagai's papers.

Pandey said since then whenever he would make follow-ups, Rasa would get mad at him.

Rasa then stopped going to a restaurant where Pandey works and would not answer phone calls.

"My girlfriend cried. She has no job and we really relied upon Rasa's promises," Pandey said. "That amount is very big for us alien workers."

Chapagai used to work as housemaid for former Gov. Froilan Tenorio. Her employment was not renewed in May 2009. Labor's Deanne Siemer gave her extension to find a new employer only until Oct. 14, 2009.

Chapagai is hoping that somebody in the community can "truly help" her get a job before the Oct. 14 deadline.

Rasa told *Saipan Tribune* that the Nepalese came to him, asking for help to get employment.

"Her background doesn't meet [the requirement]. So anyway, the agreement is that if she doesn't meet [the requirement] I have to pay her back. There's no deception on that," Rasa said.

In December 2004, police arrested Rasa and his wife over allegations that they defrauded a then 82-year-old businessman by claiming that they would receive over $1 million in land compensation from the government.

In August 2005, Superior Court presiding judge Robert C. Naraja dismissed the case after the Office of the Attorney General moved to drop the complaint charging them with 28 counts of theft.

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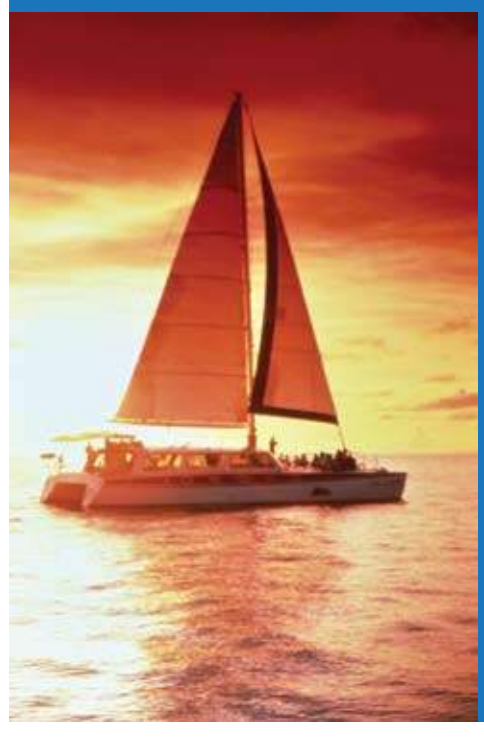

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Illinois family gets food stamp assistance, more pledges of support

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The government, through its Nutrition Assistance Program, yesterday approved the application of a homeless family from Illinois and provided food stamp assistance worth $504 a month.

Couple Amy Gregg and Richard Johnson, along with their two daughters, processed the requirements with the help of Taotao Tano president Gregorio Cruz yesterday morning and were approved at noon.

Johnson told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that they are very grateful to everyone in the community who are assisting them in these challenging times.

Since their story came out on the papers, the family has been overwhelmed with the support extended to them.

They shared that a few motorists even stop on the street when they see them and have offered money to the family.

"They were all nice, making offers of support. We truly appreciate their gesture," Gregg told *Saipan Tribune*.

As of 5pm yesterday, over a hundred calls pledging support were received by the family.

Food items such as cookies, bread, cereals, milk, noodles, and rice started to come in since Tuesday morning. An estimated 50 individuals and families have also visited Johnson, Gregg, and their daughters to check on their condition.

Today, Johnson is scheduled for an interview at the Commonwealth Health Center for possible employment, while the Marianas Visiting Nurses had initially expressed willingness to hire Gregg.

In a visit to the family Tuesday night, *Saipan Tribune* chanced upon Ellen Cepeda and her family who brought food items. One of the visiting kids also handed a few school supplies to 5-year-old Destany Large, who has been out of the school since they moved out from her aunt's place.

Representing the San Jose Parish Church, Angie Mangarero and her husband also paid a visit to the couple and their daughters and asked what possible assistance they could extend. A packed dinner from a restaurant was also served.

Saipan Tribune learned that Customs director Jess Muna and wife Dorothy were also among the early visitors of the family as well as the pastor of a Korean church.

Yesterday, Hopwood Junior High School—through counselor Josiah Kyoka—informed the family of their willingness to accept 13-year-old Sierra Fugeat.

The family from Quincy, Illinois moved to the island for good last Aug. 20. However, after a falling out with a family member on island, they were forced to seek help from the community.

SAMOANS

From Page 1

and nine in nearby Tonga.

Nearly a week after the disaster, hundreds of Samoans remain huddled in the hills above the coast—and none appeared ready to return to life on the beach.

"We don't want to go back down," said Solo Feleni, whose family is living in a tent. "This is the safest place for us."

Feleni said survivors urgently need more water; the last delivery to her area was three days ago. Staff of South Pacific Water, Samoa's bottled mineral water exporter, made a third trip into the hills Monday to deliver another 400 cases of water.

Some survivors of the Sept. 29 tsunami, which was triggered by a 8.3-magnitude underwater earthquake, were also asking for building materials, as they began planning their new homes high above the coast.

"We don't want to live at our usual place because it brings back sad memories of the disaster," said Fuea Ta'uinaola, who is camping with his family on a hillside at Satitoa village. The family is considering relocating to the area from the coastal village of Aleipata, which was virtually wiped out by the tsunami.

Chief executive of Samoa's Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment, Taulealeausumai Laavasa Malua, said the government will provide support for families who want to rebuild inland. Tsunami-devastated villages had previously been identified as being at risk from flooding, he said.

But while those who have lost their homes are not interested in rebuilding along the coast at the moment, Malua said it will be a challenge to convince them in the longer term to settle inland.

"We've always been working with the villagers, telling them they are in a risk area, and when they rebuild they should probably think about rebuilding permanently inland," he said. "But people's linkages to their land and also their heritage is not easy to be just abandoned like that."

Meanwhile, the U.N. children's fund was preparing to begin a mass measles vaccination program for 11,000 children in Samoa later this week.

"Measles is always a threat to children in disaster situations ... because children die from measles," Dennis McKinlay, UNICEF's New Zealand executive director, said. Lack of safe water and the potential for disease to spread rapidly were "the main risk factors" for the Samoan community, he said.

Up to 4,000 children have been displaced from the tsunami zone "and that's quite a concern," he said. Children orphaned by the tsunami or who lost family are being targeted by the agency as part of a child protection program UNICEF has run in Samoa for some years.

Seven people reported missing in Samoa after the tsunami have still not been found, a senior police officer told The Associated Press on condition of anonymity as he was not authorized to speak on the matter. The search may be ended in the next day or two, he said.

HERMAN

From Page 1

committee on Labor and Immigration, and a former labor and immigration chief.

His remains are still in Hawaii, and are expected to be on Saipan on Oct. 15.

The former lawmaker's relatives and top government officials yesterday said Palacios' passing is a big loss to the CNMI.

John "JJ" Cabrera said his father-in-law was a "very good person" and a true leader.

"He's the person who's always in charge in a good way. He is someone who speaks his mind out, and helps a lot of people. He loved fishing so much," Cabrera told *Saipan Tribune* in a phone interview.

Cabrera is married to one of Palacios's five children, Betty Ann. Cabrera said his father-in-law had a stroke, underwent kidney transplant and heart bypass, and later developed pneumonia. Palacios spent months in Manila and Honolulu for treatment.

"It's unfortunate that he had a lot of medical problems," he said.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan) said his uncle "was not afraid of taking on challenges that's why he was involved in politics, very energetic, a can-do type of person, and a self-learned businessman."

"We pray for his family," the speaker said.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, in a statement, extended his condolences to Palacios's wife, Joyce, their children, and the entire family.

Fitial said he has many fond memories of working with Palacios in the CNMI Legislature. The governor said Palacios served during a critical time with the CNMI Legislature and struggled with serious policy issues, including important amendments to CNMI tax laws that set the stage for the growth and development of the islands.

"I remember Representative Palacios as someone who was very nationalistic—as someone very concerned with the indigenous people of the CNMI. He was pro-local self-government and he cared very deeply for our local culture and identity. Former Representative Palacios's passing is a loss for our Commonwealth. He will be missed," Fitial said.

Senate Pres. Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), who also served at the House of Representatives with Palacios several years back, said he admires Palacios' "commitment to serve the people not only of his precinct but all the people of the CNMI."

"I respect his concern for other people. He had a real big heart. I remember visiting him at the Asian Hospital in Manila years back and even when he's at the hospital, he was still thinking of other people. We are going to sorely miss him," Reyes said.

Mass is being held at the San Antonio Church at 6pm from Monday to Saturday. On Sundays, the Mass is being held twice— at 6am and 9am.

Cabrera said the funeral is tentatively set for Oct. 17.

Palacios is survived by his wife Joyce, five children, and several grandchildren.

SHELL

From Page 1

first price rollback for the year, bringing back the pump prices to what they used to be prior to their last price hike on Aug. 30.

Mobil and Shell raised their pump prices five times since the start of 2009. These increases mean that Saipan motorists had been paying 65 cents more a gallon since the first round of increase in 2009 in February.

Ed Pascual, a nurse at the Commonwealth Health Center, said a 10-cent a gallon reduction in fuel price would mean a lot to him and his family.

"We moved from Chalan Kiya to Navy Hill about one-and-a-half year ago because of the price of fuel. It's costly to drive long distances from work to home. Now, every price reduction will be a big help especially with the economic condition on the island," Pascual told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, after he filled up his car with $40 worth of unleaded gasoline at Shell's service station on Middle Road.

Pascual said he found out about the price rollback only when he got to the service station.

Shell and Mobil have not been making advance notice of any increase or decrease in their prices.

Because of the 10-cent price rollback, regular self-serve gasoline at Mobil and Shell service stations is now $3.379 a gallon.

At Mobil service stations, the price of super self-serve gasoline is now $3.679 a gallon.

Shell's premium self-serve gasoline now retails at $3.699 a gallon.

Diesel at Mobil and Shell stations now retail at $3.549 a gallon.

Mobil and Shell's price rollback also came a few days after Sen. Luis Crisostimo (D-Saipan) asked consumer counsel Michael Ernest of the Office of the Attorney General to investigate Mobil and Shell for not lowering their pump prices despite a recent drop in the cost of crude oil.

DELAY

From Page 1

tent that the Commonwealth be able to maintain its vital Chinese and Russian tourist base.

Public Law 110-229 sets the new federalization date for Nov. 28, which is less than 60 days from now.

Chamber president Jim Arenovski, in separate letters to Rahall and other lawmakers, asked their support for Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's H.R. 3647 or any similar bill or amendment that delays by one year the federalization implementation date.

Sablan (D-MP) earlier said DHS does not even have a space at the Saipan airport to be able to effectively control borders less than 60 days from now.

The letters also asked lawmakers to require DHS to regularly report on actions being taken to prepare for federalization by the proposed Dec. 1, 2010 effective date.

"We are cognizant of a belief in some quarters that federal immigration control in the Northern Marianas should proceed on Nov. 28, 2009 regardless of otherwise avoidable negative impact. We disagree. DHS and other agencies have had almost 17 months to prepare for the implementation of (the Consolidated Natural Resources Act) in the Commonwealth," Arenovski said in his letter to Rahall, a copy of which was obtained by *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Arenovski said with less than 60 days prior to the transition program effective date, Russia and China are still not included in the visa waiver program.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the largest organization of businesses on Saipan, has long pushed for the inclusion in the visa waiver program of Chinese and Russian tourists who account for some 20 percent of tourism revenues in the CNMI.

Arenovski also said that DHS has just issued the proposed CNMI foreign investor program rules which he said "will eventually lead to the loss of a substantial portion of our existing foreign investor pool."

Public comment on the proposed investor rules ends on Oct. 14, but only five comments from the CNMI have so far been posted on the federal website.

The proposed investor rules and comments can be accessed at http://www.regulations.gov/search/Regs/home.html#docketDetail?R=USCIS-2008-0035.

Arenovski, in an open letter to Chamber members, said the organization's comments on these rules will be out soon.

"There should be no surprises here. Although we applaud the reporting aspects of the legislation, we are still against having our investors being required to get another visa once they leave the CNMI and want to return. We are also questioning the minimum investment threshold, as well as the termination of the CNMI-only program at the end of 2014," Arenovski said in a statement published in the Chamber's latest "Taking Care of Business" newsletter.

He said many of the CNMI's foreign investors have been on the islands for decades and have contributed greatly to the local economy.

In his two-page letter to Rahall and other lawmakers, Arenovski also said that DHS has still not issued CNMI-only transitional worker program regulations that will affect thousands of employees and employers.

"H.R. 3647 would provide the time and mechanisms necessary to ensure that DHS is allowed the time, and reminded of Congress's intent, to properly enact the immigration provisions of CNRA in the Commonwealth," Arenovski told Rahall and other lawmakers.

Sablan, in a news briefing on Tuesday, said that DHS' proposed "creative" or "administrative" solution to the CNMI's concerns includes requiring Chinese and Russian tourists to fill up "one additional form" before visiting the CNMI in lieu of securing a U.S. visa.

DHS' proposal is now under review by different agencies, including the U.S. Department of State and the U.S. Department of Defense, he said.

Besides introducing a bill delaying federalization by one year, Sablan also introduced a bill that would continue the existing CNMI visa waiver program for 180 days beyond the Nov. 28 startup date for federal border control in the Northern Marianas.

The Fitial administration said it welcomes any viable solution to allow the CNMI continued access to important Russian and Chinese visitors.

Cager, woman arrested for alleged 'ice' distribution

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Drug Enforcement Administration agents arrested yesterday Jawn Joyner and a woman for allegedly engaging in a conspiracy to distribute methamphetamine or "ice" on Saipan.

Joyner was a mainstay of the Visminda back-to-back champion teams in the UFO basketball league a few years ago and was once considered for the CNMI national team.

When the U.S. District Court for the NMI closed yesterday at 3:30pm, the case file was not available yet to the media or to the public.

Saipan Tribune, however, learned from sources that DEA served the arrest warrant to Joyner and co-defendant Sheree Demapan Diaz after the U.S. government filed a complaint against them.

The complaint listed Joyner's co-defendant as Sheree Maratita. But at yesterday's hearing, she corrected the prosecution by identifying herself as Sheree Demapan Diaz.

The complaint charged Joyner and Diaz with conspiracy to distribute controlled substances, and possession of controlled substances with the intent to distribute.

U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David A. Wiseman set no bail at this time for Joyner, while allowed Diaz to be released to a third-party custodian that is acceptable to the U.S. Probation Office.

Wiseman set the preliminary hearing for Oct. 16.

Attorney G. Anthony Long served as temporary counsel for Joyner. Diaz appeared with no lawyer. Assistant U.S. Attorney James Benedetto appeared for the U.S. government.

Sources said DEA agents used a "confidential source" in conducting several "ice" transactions with the defendants during buy-bust operations in 2008 and early this year.

In September 2008, the defendants allegedly conspired to sell .34 actual grams of "ice", while .95 actual grams of "ice" in October 2008.

In March 2009, the defendants allegedly conspired to sell .41 actual grams of "ice."

In August 2009, police arrested Joyner for allegedly beating up and threatening to kill his former common-law wife.

OAG files charges against Corrections officer in domestic violence

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General has filed charges against a Corrections officer allegedly involved in a domestic violence.

The OAG charged Jesse R. Babauta with two counts of assault and battery, one count of assault, one count of interfering with a domestic violence report, and one count of criminal coercion.

Assistant Attorney General George Hasselback stated in the complaint that on Aug. 1, 2009, Babauta slapped the victim in the presence of a child and threatened to kill her.

Hasselback said the defendant told the victim he would kill her by locking her in a closet and depriving her of food and water until she dies.

Babauta allegedly told the victim he would use his position as a Corrections officer to get her arrested if she called the police.

The prosecutor said the defendant also punched the victim in the head and pushed her to the ground, causing her to scrape her knees and legs.

In 2007, the OAG charged Babauta for pointing a gun at a taxi driver, who had just dropped off Babauta's then girlfriend at the defendant's house in As Teo.

In March 2008, the jurors rendered a verdict finding Babauta not guilty on the charge of assault with a dangerous weapon.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman also found Babauta not guilty of assault and battery, but convicted him of disturbing the peace.

44 CNMI students shine in national competitions

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

Forty-four local students from both private and public schools made their home islands proud after triumphing in various national competitions during the summer.

Saipan Tribune learned that a team of 14 students for the National Forensic League, held in Birmingham, Alabama last summer, showed continuous pattern of improvement against students from across the United States and advanced deep in both the supplemental and the consolation events

From the group, four made it to the Top 200, one to the Top 100, and one in the Top 90. The group was also cited in the poetry finals because of their diligent work.

The local NFLers who were given honors include Frank Yeung, Oilang Maui, David Kim, Ryan Ortizo, Genesis Ranjo, and John Elenzano. They competed in categories of expository speech, prose, poetry, and storytelling where over 3,000 competitors qualified.

According to Harold Easton, NFL board chairman, the students gained additional experience which they will bring back home and share with next year's competitors.

They have experienced the pressure of multiple breaks, or not being eliminated and moving forward to the highest level of competition.

In addition, Easton said, the participants gained the experience of working with, competing with and sharing experiences with students from all over the States.

"These students truly know that students from CNMI are their equals," he added.

For the National Junior Forensic League competition, held in San Antonio, Texas last summer, 12 local students worked very hard and competed well. Eleven of them reached the quarterfinals, four reached the semifinals, and one student, Anastasia Schweiger, reached the finals and was adjudged Top 5 in the nation in impromptu speaking.

"This marked the first year a student participated and represented Carolinian/Chamorro Language Heritage Studies.

"The move to Texas seemed to ignite our students, who placed overall better than ever against this tough national competition. Our students showed marked improvement over the 2008 competition," Easton said, adding that NMI's NJFL team also received special mention at the opening ceremonies.

NJFLers who were commended for their achievements were Michael Johnson, Anne Gelika Elenzano, Eunice Park, Jee Hui Hwang, Anastasia Schweiger, Kahra Atalig, Crystalline Cristobal, Glen Florendo, Emily Dotts, and Zalika Joyner.

In Lincoln, Nebraska, a team of 18 local students also performed well in individual events at both the senior international thespian society and junior international thespian levels.

Easton told *Saipan Tribune* among the many thousands of thespians nationwide who competed at the chapter level in 40 states that this year, only 400 qualified at the international festival quarterfinals which were attended by over 30,000 thespians.

Saipan Tribune learned that for the sixth straight year, Team CNMI was given the opportunity to perform in the Chapter Select Showcase, 16 productions chosen from the chapter festivals through the U.S.

Thespians in both junior and senior levels included Lizel Tiples, Joseph Martin, Akiko Dela Cruz, Aisha Joyner, Miki Nadia Dela Cruz, Anna Rose Deleon Guerrero, Sung Yul Baik, Moon Hyo Lee, Jacqueline David, Kay Park, Adelayah Mojica, Matthew Wheat, Zalika Joyner, Reece Brown, Royze Banados, Dayanara Flores, Ray Mark Denora, and Tommy Bai.

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Lifetime achievement award for Dr. Inos urged

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public School System and the Board of Education expressed their strong support to confer Dr. Rita H. Inos a posthumous lifetime achievement award from the NMI Humanities Council.

Inos

Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita A. Sablan urged council chairperson Charles Reyes Jr. to recognize the late educator's contribution to humanities by giving her the honor.

"I write in support of awarding the NMI Humanities Council Lifetime Achievement in the Humanities to Dr. Rita Hocog Inos. We should have done this years ago but the very least we can do is recognize posthumously her dedication to supporting the humanities," Sablan said in her letter to Reyes.

She disclosed that Dr. Inos was a lifetime supporter of Chamorro and Carolinian language instruction and cultural preservation and was a leading supporter and volunteer worker on the revision of the Chamorro Dictionary.

Sablan worked with Dr. Inos as associate commissioner for curriculum, instruction, and assessment. During that time, Dr. Inos developed and refined a data driven system based upon assessment of student achievement that was a precursor to the enactment of the No Child Left behind Act.

"Development of this data driven system of assessment enabled the PSS to readily comply with the rigor of the NCLB Act," Sablan said, adding that Dr. Inos also developed, in collaboration with the school principals, four strategic priorities for the PSS which are: high student achievement; quality teachers, school administrators and school support staff; safe and orderly schools; and effective and efficient operations. These four strategic priorities still guide the daily operations of the public schools.

Call fellow members to vote

Reyes, in a separate interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, said that as chair of the council and in his personal capacity as a private citizen that he completely supports a lifetime achievement award for Dr. Inos.

He cited the contributions of the late educator to the NMI Humanities, PSS, Northern Marianas College, PREL, and the communities of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

"I welcome the nomination and pledge to vote for such recognition on the council board. I also call on my fellow board members to endorse the nomination. The decision, of course, rests with the majority vote of the full council board, of which I have great confidence," said Reyes.

All nominations for the Governor's Humanities awards must be received by Oct. 9. The council nominations and bylaws committee will then review all award nominations and make award recommendations to the full council board.

Reyes said the council normally does not announce award recipients ahead of time, and emphasized that this is not an announcement of any official decision, which has yet to be made.

"This is just my strong endorsement of such a nomination, reflecting widespread community support. As chair, I respect the jurisdiction of our nomination and bylaws committee and the decision of the rest of our board members," he added.

Red Cross comes to aid of A. Samoa tsunami victims

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Over 80 Red Cross volunteers from the United States (including 15 from Hawaii) are helping victims of the tsunami that ravaged American Samoa last week.

American Red Cross volunteers are going village to village to assist people who may be without housing for months and without electricity for a year or more.

At least 2,000 families in American Samoa have homes that are damaged or destroyed by the tsunami.

"The government of American Samoa has identified all of the major and destroyed residences with the number of people in those residences, sorted by villages," reports Barbara Riester, the American Red Cross worker in charge of bulk distribution.

"Based on the number of the people in the family, the American Red Cross is providing free coolers, cooking kits, tarps, cots, work gloves, flashlights, trash bags and comfort kits," said Riester.

Red Cross workers are also distributing tents and portable toilets provided by FEMA."We're dealing with 70 villages that were affected, some more heavily damaged than others. We are sending our people out to those villages in whatever vehicle we have available."

"Today, we were able to reach two villages—one small, one larger. In the small village, we addressed the needs of two families with a total of 10 people. In the larger village, we helped 15 families with a total of 77 people."

Each vehicle going to the villages with supplies is followed by a vehicle carrying American Red Cross workers who have been trained in constructing yerts—round tents that can be erected on a family's land after the American Samoa government has certified that the property has been cleared of debris and has adequate sanitation systems.

"We want to make sure that where the family is setting up the tent is safe," Riester said.

The tents may be in use for some time: Riester said that damaged or destroyed homes may take "months" to replace or repair and that electricity, which is out on half of American Samoa, may require generator assistance for as much as 12 to 24 months.

"You're talking long term that people here will need assistance," she said.

So far, over 4,700 meals and snacks have been served, and nine (9) pallets of food items such as spam, rice, and saimin sent by the Red Cross arrived in American Samoa from Hawaii today.

Tim Serban, a volunteer with the Red Cross Spiritual Care Response Team, is following up with patients who have been released from the hospital, especially those who have lost children and who are in shock and trying to survive. Serban and his team met with a pre-school teacher who was facing the reality of school starting and what to say or do to help the children process the grief and fear that the students who don't show up, may never be coming back to school. Says Serban, "Coming this Friday, we will be working with two families having funerals for their children, which means digging their own child's grave, all of which are in the front yard of the family home."

Over 80 Red Cross volunteers from the United States (including 15 from Hawaii), are sleeping in open air recreational centers and are thankful to get a cold shower. They are working out of a tent and two 40-foot cargo containers welded together side by side.

Help people affected by disaster like the recent tsunami by donating to the American Red Cross Disaster Relief Fund. On those rare occasions when donations exceed Red Cross expenses for a specific disaster, contributions are used to prepare for and serve victims of other disasters. Your gift enables the Red Cross to provide shelter, food, emotional support and other assistance to victims of all disasters. ***(PR)***

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
RFP10-DOF-005

SUBMISSION: NOVEMBER 3, 2009 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"ELECTRONIC DOCUMENT MANAGEMENT SYSTEM"

THE RFP PACKAGE MAY BE OBTAINED AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY IN LOWERBASE, SAIPAN DURING REGULAR WORKING HOURS.

A PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE WILL BE HELD ON **TUESDAY, OCTOBER 20, 2009** AT **10:00 A.M. AT THE DIVISION OF REVENUE & TAXATION CONFERENCE ROOM** LOCATED IN DAN DAN. **ALL QUESTIONS** REGARDING THIS PROJECT MUST BE SUBMITTED IN WRITING NO LATER THAN **4:30 P.M., LOCAL TIME OCTOBER 23, 2009** TO MR. JOE I. QUITUGUA, DIRECTOR OF EDP, VIA E-MAIL TO finedp01@pticom.com OR FAX TO (670) 664-1115.

THIS IS FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **ROBERT A. SCHRACK**
ACTING SECRETARY OF FINANCE

/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN**
DIRECTOR, P&S

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055 • SAIPAN • MP 96950-1055
Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

NOTICE OF SPECIAL MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the Commonwealth Ports Authority hereby gives notice that a Special Meeting of the Board of Directors will be held on Friday, October 9, 2009, at 10:00 a.m. in the CPA Conference Room, Second Floor, Captain George F. Fleming Building at the Port of Saipan, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

AGENDA

I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Adoption of Agenda

II. SPECIAL AGENDA ITEMS
1. Adoption of Board Meeting minutes of September 23, 2009
2. Adoption of Board meeting minutes of September 30, 2009
3. Formation of Appeals Committee
4. Universal Rental (UR) Corporation

III. PUBLIC COMMENT

IV. EXECUTIVE SESSION

V. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ JOSE R. LIFOIFOI
Chairman, Board of Directors

October 7, 2009

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INVITATION FOR BID
NMHC IFB09-006

PURCHASE OF PACIFIC AND ADULT MATERIALS FOR THE TINIAN PUBLIC LIBRARY
(This Ad is paid for by NMHC with HUD funds)

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors through its Chairwoman of the Board is soliciting competitive sealed bids from interested vendors for the purchase of Pacific and Adult Materials for the Tinian Public Library.

Copies of the Scope of Work may be obtained at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan during regular business hours, Monday thru Friday except CNMI Holidays.

Sealed bids must be marked **"NMHC IFB09-006"**. For bidders within the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, not later than **10:00 a.m., local time, October ~~19~~ 20, 2009.**

Bids received after the date and time will not be accepted. Bidders located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their bids by submitting a Notice of Intent to bid. Notice of Intent to bid must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than **10:00 a.m.**, local time, **Monday, October ~~19~~ 20, 2009**, and must be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com. For bidders located outside the CNMI, an original and three (3) copies of sealed bids must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **October ~~19~~ 20, 2009**, and must be received at Procurement and Supply no later than **October ~~28~~ 29, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a bid.

Bids will publicly opened and read at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan at **8:00 a.m.**, local time, **October ~~29~~ 30, 2009**. However, if no notice of intent to bid were received from bidders outside the CNMI, bids will be opened at **10:30 a.m.**, local time on **October ~~19~~ 20, 2009**.

Bidding procedures shall be in compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, however, Article 7, "Local Business Preference", as amended by Public Law 15-95 and as further amended by Public Law 15-118, **is not available** because its use is prohibited by the Federal law granting the funding for this procurement. This project is funded by a grant from the U. S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), under its Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) provided to the Commonwealth. This project is also subject to Section 3 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1968 which requires recipients of HUD funds to help insure that the economic opportunities generated by these HUD funds are provided to local low-income residents and the businesses that serve them "to the maximum extent feasible."

NMHC further notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women-owned business enterprises (MBE/WBE) are afforded equal opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, gender, age, disability or national origin.

The Government reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in the sole opinion of NMHC, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the Government.

/s/
Marcie M. Tomokane
Chairwoman of the Board

/s/
Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

Write-in votes for municipal councils pushed

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Rep. Stanley Torres (R-Saipan) yesterday pre-filed a bill allowing for write-in votes for municipal councils, a practice which he said has been prohibited by the Commonwealth Election Commission since 2001.

Once the bill is signed into law, it shall apply to the 2009 general elections set for Nov. 7.

In pre-filing House Bill 16-281, Torres said there are only two candidates running for municipal council membership for Saipan and the Northern Islands in the 2009 general election but the CNMI Constitution requires three members on the municipal councils of Saipan and the Northern Islands, Tinian and Aguiguan, and Rota.

"Historically, the Commonwealth has allowed voters to write in a candidate's name in lieu of selecting candidates whose names are already placed on the ballot. However, the Commonwealth Election Commission has, since 2001, prohibited voters from submitting write-in votes," he said.

The lawmaker said given that there are only two individuals running for the municipal council on Saipan and the Northern Islands, the voters of Saipan will have no opportunity to vote for the person who will fill the remaining municipal council seat.

Among other things, Torres' bill adds a new section to Title 1, Division 6, Chapter 5 of the Commonwealth Code.

The proposed Section 6215 states: "Write-in votes shall be allowed in elections for municipal council for the islands of Saipan and Northern Islands, Tinian and Aguigan, and Rota."

As of Oct. 1, a total of 16,152 voters have registered for the Nov. 7 general elections.

The law sets the deadline for voter registration period on Sept. 18 but applications postmarked on or before that date are still valid for registration.

There are 110 candidates vying for more than 40 seats in government next month.

DEQ red-flags two Saipan beaches

The Division of Environmental Quality has raised the red flag on two sites on Saipan and advised the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified.

The agency red-flagged Old Man By the Sea Beach and Marine Beach after water samples collected from locations contained excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. However, studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain these bacteria from the natural environment, which may not be directly associated with public health concerns.

DEQ analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 38 locations on the Saipan's Coast. Marine Water Quality Reports are also provided at www.deq.gov.mp and www.cnmicoralreef.net.

Interested individuals and organizations can also receive e-mail notifications of the weekly marine water quality reports.

To do so, send e-mail to environment@deq.gov.mp. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 664-8500 with any question. ***(PR)***

MICKEY D'S FUNDRAISER NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.

Mount Carmel School president Margaret DelaCruz receives a $1,000 check from McDonald's Saipan owner/president Jose Ayuyu and store general manager Marcia Ayuyu. MCS collected 1,482 points during the McDonald's fundraiser for private schools to finish third place, while Marianas Baptist Academy earned 3,514 points for the top prize of $3,500. Green Meadows got 3,228 points for the second prize of $2,300.

Public Defender's prevails in challenge to traffic citations

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Public Defender's Office has prevailed in its challenge to traffic citations issued to three motorists regarding expired vehicle registration.

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona granted PDO's motion to dismiss 9 CMC Section 2107 charge (having expired registration) filed against Arvin S. Avila, Billy Jack Sanchez, and Jin Guo Dong.

In a written decision issued yesterday, Manglona agreed with assistant public defender Richard C. Miller that Section 2107 is not a penal statute on its face and that it fails to provide notice to defendants Avila, Sanchez, and Dong.

The judge said Section 2107 fails to relate to the operation of motor vehicles or the use of streets and highways.

"It is a declarative provision that defines the point in time at which a vehicle registration will expire, and is similar inform to the definitional provisions listed under Section 1102 and 1103 of the Vehicle Code," she noted.

According to court records, the defendants' consolidated motion to dismiss the charge was heard on Sept. 21, 2009. Assistant Attorney General Gregory Baka appeared for the government. Miller represented the defendants.

Edward Buckingham, the traffic prosecutor assigned to these matters, was appointed and confirmed as the Attorney General.

Baka assumed the role as the traffic prosecutor. Despite the continuances of the hearing, the government failed to file any written opposition to PDO's motion.

Nevertheless, Manglona allowed Baka to argue against the motion.

The judge issued an oral ruling from the bench granting the defendants' motion.

Each of the three defendants was issued a citation for alleged violations of the Commonwealth's Vehicle Code.

All three were cited for violating Sections 2201(a) and 2107) of the Commonwealth Code; operating a motor vehicle without being licensed and having an expired registration, respectively.

In addition, Avila was charged with speeding and Dong with failure to wear a seatbelt.

PDO's motion attacks the validity of the charge of Section 2107 (having an expired registration) only.

Section 2107 states that "every vehicle and bicycle registration under this division shall expire annually at midnight on the last day of the month designated by the bureau."

Baka argued that Section 2107 must be read in context with other sections of the Vehicle Code.

In her ruling, Manglona said the government fails to identify with particularity which, in this instance, is the other applicable section.

Manglona said if another statute is properly at issue against any defendant involving vehicle registration, then the government must cite to that statute in its charge.

In the footnote of the order, the judge said when asked if the government intended to amend the citation to reflect a charge for having an expired registration, the prosecution declined.

Kagman Flea Market this Saturday

Kagman's Saturday Flea Market will be held on Saturday, Oct. 10, at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot.

It is held every government payday Saturday. You may only sell your used items. Tents and tables will be provided. Interested sellers can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for more info. ***(PR)***

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Slight rise in WIC clients for Sept.

By NAZARIO RODRIGUEZ JR.
n_rodriguez@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The CNMI Women Infants Children Program of the Department of Public Health received a total of 5,121 clients during the month of September in all the three islands (Saipan, 4,644; Tinian, 263; and Rota, 214).

This was a slight increase compared to the total in August, which was 5,099 (Saipan, 4,635; Tinian, 254; and Rota, 210).

The new data also showed that the Saipan WIC Program clinic at Capital Hill had 1,028 women, 842 infants, and children 2,774 as its clients.

Tinian clinic listed 51 women, 40 infants, and 172 children, while in Rota had 41 women, 40 infants, and 133 children.

CNMI WIC also has 163 exclusively nursing infants broken down to 151 on Saipan, seven on Tinian, and five on Rota.

There were 293 partial nursing clients both under breastfeeding and formula feeding programs (Saipan, 271; Tinian, 9; and Rota, 13).

Stores have also been accepting food instruments and cash value vouchers with the new food package since Oct. 1.

WIC Program Nutrition Services Coordinator Erin Angela Camacho said that participants have very positive comments about the change.

In related developments, the program scheduled two staff meetings on Oct. 9 and Oct. 23 from at 7:30am to 11:30am.

During these period, there will be no scheduled appointments and the clinic will reopen at 12:30pm on those days.

Camacho also said that the WIP Program will be part of the Women's Forum to be jointly sponsored by the Breast and Cervical Cancer Screening Program in connection with the National Breast Cancer Awareness Month this October.

The WIC Program will be there to promote breastfeeding and its connection to reducing the risk of breast cancer in mothers.

The Women's Forum will held on Oct. 10 at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino (8am-12pm); Oct. 17 at Asparis Restaurant on Rota (8am-12 pm), and Oct. 24 at the Aqua Resort Club on Saipan (8am-12pm).

Puengin Inetnon this Friday

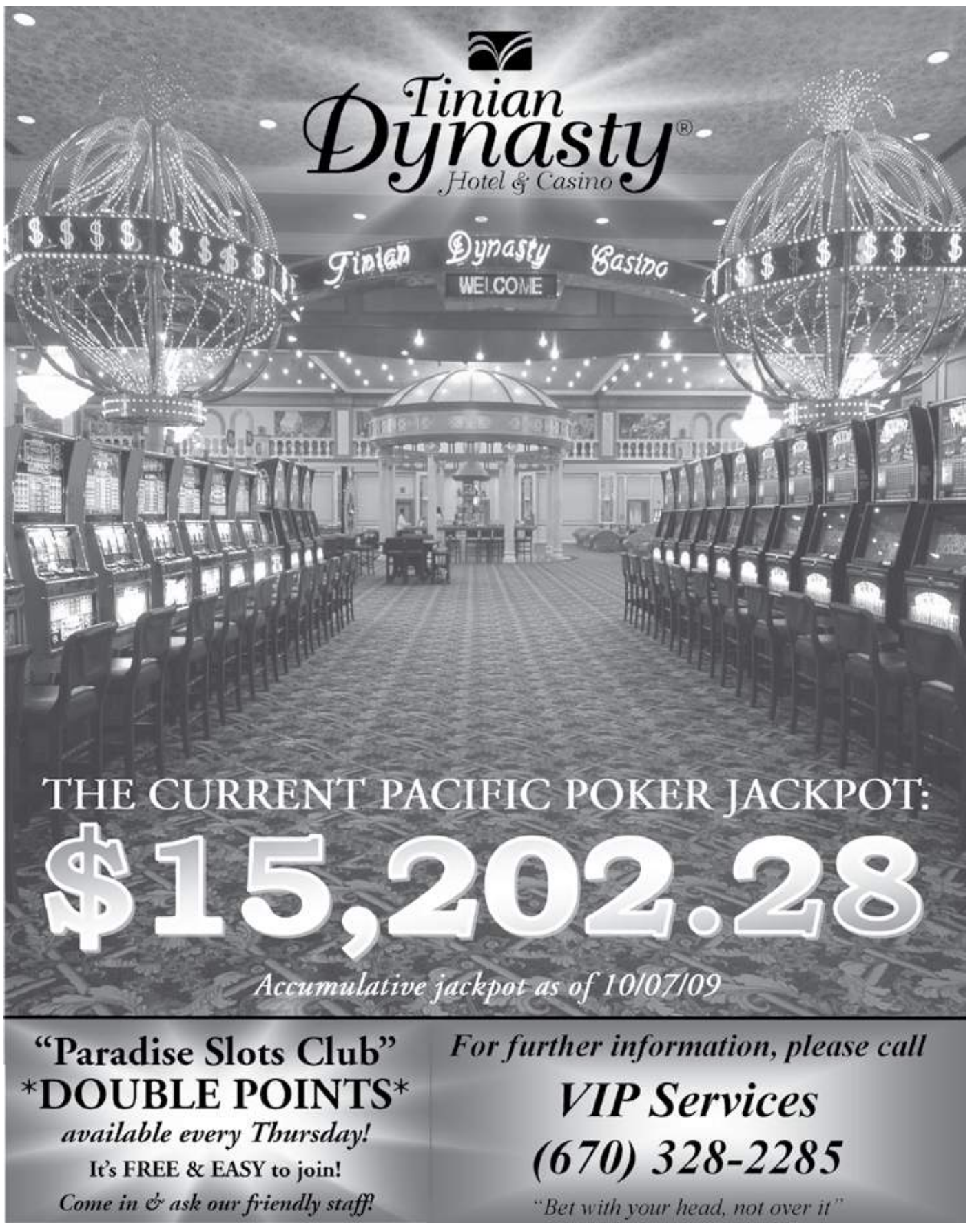
Puengin Inetnon will be held again on Oct. 9 at the Kagman Community Center's parking lot.

Canton Restaurant, Lynn's BBQ, Fong's Bakery, Champ's Shave Ice, and Bali Fashion will be selling food, drinks, snacks, clothing, and crafts. The Joeten Kiyu Library's Bookmobile will also be available for the public to check out books.

Puengin Inetnon is Kagman's Friday Night Market that takes place every government payday. It begins at 4:30pm and ends at 10pm.

Puengin Inetnon is a family oriented event. Alcohol is prohibited from the event. All are welcome. Come attend Puengin Inetnon for some family fun in Kagman. Interested vendors can call Jesse Torres at 256-7678 for applications. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.



Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Oct. 8, 1999

NMI, OIA okay deal

After weeks of disagreement, CNMI and the federal government have finally struck a deal on the reimbursement of expenditures incurred from detaining and repatriating more than 600 illegal Chinese immigrants during the Tinian operations. The U.S. Department of the Interior is paying about $754,000 in initial settlement of charges and billings from April to June, which the island government expects to receive anytime soon, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio. "The reimbursement is finished. We will get our money anytime now. We mutually agreed (on our differences)," he told reporters yesterday, when asked on the status of the negotiation.

Teno keeps hands off Saipan power project

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio won't step in to hasten resolution of the dispute surrounding the long-stalled Saipan power project as he expressed confidence yesterday that the board of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation would come up with a decision by next week. But he said any alteration to the initial plan to build an 80-megawatt plant should consider the power demand and actual consumption on the island to ensure that there will be no outages in the future. "I'm sure the board members will come with suggestion and... I hope that whatever decisions they make will make sure that we won't be facing power shortage or breakdown of all the (existing) power plants," Tenorio told reporters.

Oct. 8, 2001

Panel eyed to help improve business climate in CNMI

With so many task forces, special committees and other related councils, the Senate has moved for the creation of one specific body-a Central Economic Recovery Commission-which would have jurisdiction over all these economic-related bodies. Senate Bill 12-127, which was introduced by Sen. Edward U. Maratita, now goes to the House of Representatives after the Senate passed the measure during their last session on Tinian. According to Maratita, when the Asian economic bubble burst in the late 1990's, the CNMI government created a large number of special committees and task forces to address labor-related issues, investment policies, airlines, immigration issues and other such special incentives geared toward reviving the stagnating local economy.

Supreme Court clears Onerheim

The Supreme Court has cleared Superior Court Associate Judge Virginia Sablan-Onerheim in a complaint that accused the lady magistrate of political partisanship. Onerheim allegedly violated the campaign guidelines for her retention bid in the synchronized elections next month. Penned by Associate Justice Alexandro Castro, the High Court's ruling favored Onerheim, ordering that the matter be closed. "I have no reason to doubt Ms. [Glenna Sakisat] Palacios' account of the incident, that is, someone placed a card advocating Judge Onerheim's judicial retention in a political flyer packet. It is also apparent that Judge Onerheim had no knowledge of this activity," an excerpt from Castro's four-page ruling read.

Oct. 8, 2003

Dela Cruz gets 2 years

In a moving and highly emotional hearing inside the U.S. District Court yesterday morning, former Tinian senator Jose Dela Cruz was sentenced to a 24-month jail term in federal prison for conspiring to defraud the CNMI government. U.S. District Court Judge Alex Munson handed down the sentence at 8am before a sobbing audience, composed mainly of Dela Cruz's family and friends. "There was nobody in the audience who did not shed tears," commented former public information officer Frank Rosario, who witnessed the sentencing.

Mendiola still remains undecided; cites economy as top agenda

Tinian's new senator-elect Joseph Mendiola sought to set the record straight yesterday, saying he has yet to decide whether to join either the current Senate majority or minority bloc when he assumes office after Oct. 18. Mendiola, who was on Saipan yesterday, said in a telephone interview that he is willing to sit down with his colleagues in the upper house, as well as other Legislature members, to assess what would be in the best interest of the people of the Second Senatorial District. "I'll listen to both sides. I'm willing to listen to anybody. But as far as making a decision, I will defer doing that until I get certified after Oct. 18," said Mendiola, who will serve the remaining term of former senator Jose M. Dela Cruz.

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
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EDITORIAL

The Karzai question

As President Obama weighs the military's request for up to 40,000 more U.S. troops in Afghanistan, election officials in the capital city of Kabul are combing through a sampling of more than 350 suspect ballot boxes for signs of fraud significant enough to have given President Hamid Karzai the majority he needed to win re-election without a runoff. The two issues cannot and should not be separated. No matter how many additional troops the United States and NATO send to Afghanistan, or which strategy Obama decides to employ against the Taliban and its al-Qaida allies, it cannot succeed without an Afghan government that is seen as legitimate by the people. And that legitimacy depends to a large degree on the election results.

Even Karzai has acknowledged some fraud in the Aug. 20 vote, although he insists it was not significant. But the question of how much fraud—and how to respond to it—has divided the powerful United Nations mission in Afghanistan and last week cost former U.S. diplomat Peter W. Galbraith his job as the second-highest-ranking U.N. official there. Galbraith was fired after accusing his former boss, U.N. special representative Kai Eide, of blocking efforts to limit fraud ahead of the vote and then playing it down after the fact to avoid inflaming tensions. Eide, a Norwegian diplomat, has denied the allegations, saying he was adhering to the Afghan Constitution and election law. The leading challenger, Abdullah Abdullah, meanwhile, has accused the U.N. and election officials of backing Karzai, who was said to have won 54.6 percent of the vote, according to the preliminary results.

The vote audit is being carried out by the Electoral Complaints Commission, made up of Afghan and international members. They are reviewing a representative sample of the nearly 4,000 polling stations that are believed to have had questionable results, such as a turnout of more than 100 percent or more than 95 percent of the votes cast for one candidate. The commission, in turn, will report to the government-appointed Independent Electoral Commission, which will rule on whether the fraud was sufficient to warrant a runoff.

U.N. and U.S. officials must remain vigilant throughout this process to ensure that it is resolved urgently and honestly. Every day that passes diminishes Afghans' faith in the election results. If necessary, the United States has to be prepared to consider new elections or a transition government.

(c) 2009, Los Angeles Times

Goals to live out loud

"To be what we are, and to become what we are capable of becoming, is the only end of life."—Robert Louis Stevenson

By RIK and JANEL VILLEGAS
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Rik is a business instructor at NMC and Janel is a partner with BizResults, LLC. They can be contacted at biz_results@yahoo.com.

When 8-year-old Meagan Bilodeau dropped a bottled message in the Atlantic Ocean on June 18, 2009 during a family cruise near Bermuda, she had no idea where her letter would end up. The cruise ship was 600 miles off North Carolina's coast at the time, and Megan's dad encouraged her to write the message and told her that the currents would probably send the water bottle to Europe. She waited, hoping to hear from someone far away.

On July 28, 11-year-old Teddy Herrick, was boating with her family near Massachusetts' Martha's Vineyard when the bottle was found hundreds of miles from its original location. Teddy scooped the bottle out with a net and was surprised to learn that the girl who wrote the message lived about 15 miles from where she found the bottle.

People figuratively throw their lives overboard everyday, with a hope and a prayer that their circumstances will change for the better. They believe that currents, karma, coincidence or chance, will improve their position sometime in the future. Some even make New Year's resolutions, but if you look at the word "resolution" it is derived from the word "re-solve" which means to solve again. It's kind of like throwing the bottle with your resolutions into the ocean, and finding that it has returned at the end of the year with the same problems you're trying to solve again.

Instead of making resolutions, learn to set effective goals. A goal can be defined as a future desired status or thing that you want to achieve in a specific period of time. Virtually everyone who accomplishes something worthwhile in their life has predicted the outcome in advance by writing their goals on paper and not tossing it overboard, but crafting a life that moves them purposefully in the direction of their choice.

In order to set better goals you should know the SMART process which encourages you to write goals that are Specific, Measurable, Accountable, Realistic, and Time bound. Let's look at each one more closely using weight loss as an example.

Specific: Be clear about what you want. Too many people write vague goals that are too general, like: I want to be lose weight. How much weight do you want to lose? Be precise about what you want to be, do, or have.

Measurable: If you can't measure your goals, then how will you know if you're achieving it? Your goals should be quantified in measurable terms that can be easily monitored. Weight loss can be measured on a scale. Other measurements can include inches lost, body fat percentage, or dress and pants size.

Accountable: You should have goals that you are accountable to achieve. Making a commitment to yourself is important because when the going gets tough, a lot of people abandon ship. Another very effective method is to use external accountability with a coach or friend to whom you make a commitment. Many weight loss programs use group accountability to keep people committed to their goals.

Realistic: You should set goals that are challenging, yet attainable and maintainable. Losing 10 lbs. each week for a short period of time is possible if you're a contestant on the "Biggest Loser," but for the average person, it may not be realistic or maintainable. Trying to lose 30 lbs. may be unrealistic in one month, but it could happen in three or four months.

Time deadline: Without a time limit, there is less urgency to complete the goal, and other things in life can easily distract you. If you have a long-term goal, you can break it into specific objectives you want to accomplish in shorter time frames. With the weight loss example, you can set short-term objectives to lose two lbs. per week for the next 15 weeks in order to achieve your ultimate goal of losing 30 lbs.

An example of a SMART weight loss goal would be something like this: I feel terrific and look great because I am 30 lbs. lighter on Dec. 31 by eating sugar-free and wholesome foods, and jogging for 30 minutes four times per week.

In the example, it also includes the process to reach the goal of eating and exercising. It also includes some emotional imagery so that as you say it you can picture in your minds eye how you would look, what you'd be wearing, and the comments people would make about you when you're 30 lbs. lighter. Also, see yourself eating healthy foods and jogging effortlessly with a smile on your face (that may be tough). Now it's time to make your goal SMART-ER by adding the last two elements: Evaluate and Reward.

Evaluate: This ties into making yourself accountable to do the

See GOALS on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

A Journey to the West

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

The already successful German writer Herman Hesse in 1932 published his "Die Morgenlandfahrt," written from the perspective of an ex-member of a timeless religious sect called the League, traveling through imagined and real time and space, in search of the "ultimate Truth" on a pilgrimage through "the East," thus, the English translation entitled, "Journey to the East."

My borrowing of Hesse's title with a shift of geographical direction is by no means an attempt to compare his short novel to my reflections. Nevertheless, there is an affinity to his stepping out of his Teutonic rationality to the mysteriousness of eastern mysticism, similar to my stepping off my non-linear stream-of-consciousness musings when I embarked this past month on a rail line glance at the heartbeat of America, and view this nation's vaunted "we the people" tradition of intentionality and high purpose. But literary achievement towers too highly over mine to attempt even a passing comparison.

As most overarching dichotomies suffers in the details, there is a metaphorical difference in the focus of the West on the gifts of the Mind, as there is disciplined interest in the practices of the Spirit in the East.

But as a former player in the nation's pastime Babe Ruth is often quoted, "Don't let the fear of striking out hold you back," I will thus recap 12 installments of America by Rails that appeared in these pages, on a 25-day romp of Amtrak's 12-segment rail pass this September, to perhaps, identify what in the tradition of the West might be of interest to anyone trying to gauge the pulse beat of America. Those who did not follow the previous reflections, this ultimate one will be large brush strokes of what were existentially meaningful in reported segments and details.

The most dominant image this September was the assault on Obama Care launched from a highly vocal and well-publicized effort to thwart the intent of a health reform effort by instilling suspicion of other ulterior motives (e.g., death panels), and awakening deeply seated fears (e.g., the red scare). This culminated in Joe Wilson of South Carolina accusing the President of lying while he was addressing the joint session of Congress.

It was easy to assume pre-embarkation that the clientele of the Amtrak rails, easily of the marginalized – handicapped, obese, religious minorities such as the Amish, Mennonites and Huterites, and racial minorities of Latinos and Blacks, plus the elderly, were not cognizant of the ongoing tug on the soul of America between those who would rather see a bottle half empty against those who will inventory the content of what is half full.

I was mistaken. America is consciously at war, but its enemy is neither the alleged demonic al-Qaeda nor its supporters within the Islamic community, nor is it the unruly and illegal immigrants within its ranks and outside the boundaries that defines its sovereign borders. In fact, as revealed in numerous conversations during this trip, "we meet the enemy daily, and it is us."

A much-touted TV series coming up this November is titled "V" about 'visitors' who lull earthlings into positions of gratitude and state of complacency before revealing their malignant intent and devious designs. It very much feeds on a nationwide ogre that considers strangers as untrustworthy, of strange aliens as at best undependable, and of the unknown as inherently unworthy. Some of us wallow in self-induced fear.

This climate of fear is fanned by those incapable of seeing that the inevitable change in every fabric of American life is inherent in the evolution of life, and not a deviant trend brought about by satanic forces from strange lands or by deviously malignant and insidious homegrown subversives. Intentionally participating in that evolution confronts that fear. A group of people who claims that "Yes, we can; and Yes, we will!" is a threat to those who have found comfort in their ennui, inertia and fear.

The reality encountered was very much different from projected media image of a nation anxiously reeling and facing gloom and doom at every turn. In fact, the Filipino physician who serves the needs of the uninsured in the outskirt of Los Angeles went about his mission oblivious of the war of words being waged by health care providers on the one hand, and health care financiers on the other.

The Mongolian student who offered assistance to a seemingly "lost" San Francisco BART rider did not fit the norm of the indifferent and unconcerned city dweller. Multiracial residents of new intentional communities around Portland and their ecotupian leanings are diverging from the coal-dependent human settlements of the Northeast. The native American who vowed that her nine children were not going to be seduced by the addictive tentacles of the casinos of her "people" reflected an intentionality in life style that did not conform to the stereotype picture of the weak native subjugated by the clutches of entitlement and the allure of dependency-enticing easy money.

The Caucasian couple in Lexington, MA who made their home dwelling a haven of ecological intentionality and creativity without sacrificing aesthetics and comfort, nor kowtowing to corporation coercion, speaks of an America coming of age. But most stunning was seeing warmth of the flesh in the perceived asphalt jungles of Manhattan where the global perspective that leaps out of every context in the economic, political and social life of the city, is reflected in the local vitality among its sidewalk merchants, suburban commuters and high rise condo dwellers.

Interestingly enough, a website techie and social services grant writer in Houston, socially marginalized and ostracized for their declared sexual preference, have more passion behind their vision and mission to enable and empower the human spirit towards transparency and significant social engagement than their heterosexual counterparts in institutions of care, religious and secular.

I do not think I am naively Pollyannaish in my perspective. In fact, if we could get away from doing an inventory of what politicians, of the likes of Obama in the White House or Fitial at Capital Hill, have NOT done, but rather see what they HAVE DONE so far, we would not be too quick to condemn. To be sure, we would welcome Michael Moore's attempt to let us see ourselves in the corporate exploitation of our health care system, and the corruption of our capitalist structures, in the same manner as objective accountability has been a welcomed focus of our very own legislator Tina Sablan, but it would be well for all, particularly the media, were we to start chewing on bites that are there rather than flailing on ephemeral ghosts against those who have not produced our wished-for intangibles. That we should be critics of policy is a healthy component of the democratic process; that we are condemnatory of personalities we disagree with is a quality of bullies in the schoolyard.

Bret Favre of the Vikings, and his ambivalent fans with the Packers, together Monday night exhibited a rather unique yet increasingly common phenomenon in the heartbeat of America. Offered $20 million to just retire, the almost 40-year old gridiron quarterback signed up with cross-State rival Minnesota to show one and all the triumph of spirit over rationality. In the process, he established himself as the preeminent football quarterback who Packer fans would hardly agree with but, nevertheless, have continued to love.

The Mind defines, discriminates and focuses on limits; the Spirit embraces, cooperates and accents possibilities. The new American is learning to appropriate both gifts of the West and the East, and I met not a few of them in my recently concluded trek of America by Rails.

Pill inventor gave women protection, lost his religion

By SUSAN REIMER
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

The Pill earned its capital letters in my house when my mother found mine after my freshman year in college.

The packet had been designed to resemble a woman's compact so that birth control could be discreet. But I was a flower child and we didn't wear makeup, so I hid mine between the mattress and the box springs of my bed.

I think my mother was looking for trouble.

"You know," she said hotly. "Your father and I never relied on artificial means. We relied on prayer."

"Mom," I said, with just as much heat. "You had four kids in five years. What exactly were you praying for?"

The Pill, and The War, were the reasons I stormed out of my parents' lives—and away from their disapproval—for so long.

All these years later, the Pill became something my generation offered our own daughters, out of a sense of caution and love. Proactive and protective at once.

Malcolm Gladwell tells a different story about the Pill in his new collection of essays, titled "What the Dog Saw."

First printed in The New Yorker, "John Rock's Error" is the story of the devout Catholic scientist who helped invent the Pill and believed that his faith and his work were compatible.

Born in 1890, John Rock attended 7 a.m. Mass almost every day of his adult life, and a crucifix hung above his desk at Harvard University, where he taught for more than 30 years.

The approval of the Pill by the Food and Drug Administration in 1960 brought calls for his excommunication, but his faith and his belief in his work remained firm.

Gladwell describes how hard Rock worked to dovetail the chemistry of the birth control pill with the rhythm method, the church-approved method of birth control for Catholics.

Rock theorized that if the rhythm method worked by limiting sex to the safe period of the month created by progestin, why not just use more progestin to expand the safe period?

For the rhythm method to work, a woman needed to count on menstruating once a month, so Rock built a three-weeks-on, one-week-off cycle into that little compact container of pills. Dr. Rock believed that he had found the perfect compromise between his faith and his science.

At this point in the essay, Gladwell does what he does best—finds the intersection of science and society to explain how we got where we are.

He flashes forward in time to the 1980s and the present as science tries to understand the particular vulnerability of American women to breast, ovarian and uterine cancers, compared with other countries and cultures. The answer, Gladwell suggests, may be in the Pill and those 12 periods that it guarantees a woman each year. Rock's science could have provided a cycle of any length—as newer varieties of the Pill now do.

But "in John Rock's mind, the dictates of religion and the principles of science got mixed up, and only now are we beginning to untangle them."

This means that American women—waiting longer to have children, having fewer of them and breast-feeding for shorter periods of time, if at all—are subject to perhaps 400 periods in a lifetime, compared with women in other cultures who have more pregnancies, breast-feed longer and endure only 100 periods in a lifetime.

"In other words, what we think of as normal—frequent menses—is in evolutionary terms abnormal," Mr. Gladwell writes.

A woman's cycle (the explosive release of an egg from the ovaries and the regular build-up and break-down of the endometrium in the uterus) subjects her body to just the kind of cell division and reproduction that an opportunistic cancer takes advantage of. That is what cancer is, after all: cell division run amok.

It appears, Gladwell writes with the help of his scientist interviewees, that the price of the Pill's monthly week off may be enormous for women, and not just in terms of menstrual discomfort.

Back to John Rock.

The church would eventually ban the use of the Pill by Catholics. "No amount of word juggling can make abstinence from sexual relations and the suppression of ovulation one and the same thing," concluded the Catholic journal America.

If Rock had been able to pitch the Pill as an anti-cancer drug instead of an anti-pregnancy drug, his story might have had a different ending.

As it was, however, Rock abandoned his faith before his death, declaring it nothing but a "solace for the masses."

In the end, Gladwell writes, neither Rock nor his church was able to reconcile the requirements of his faith and the results of his science.

E-mail Reimer at susan.reimer@baltsun.com

GOALS

From Page 10

things needed to accomplish your goals, and it can be done through a progress chart where you regularly step on the scales and record your weight loss each week. You may also report your results periodically to a friend, coach, or group who helps you evaluate your progress and holds you to your commitments.

Reward: Once you've achieved your goal, it's time to buy that new wardrobe, or take that trip you've always wanted to go on. A reward can keep you motivated and help you stay focused. If you're part of a group, there should also be some recognition for those who achieve their goals.

Without a goal, your life may feel like a bottle adrift at sea with a life message that hasn't been read. When you are motivated by a goal that you are passionate about completing, then you will feel alive with a purpose that needs expressing and a message that needs to be lived out loud.

The Weather

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast Thursday night.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. South winds 10 to 15 mph becoming southeast Thursday night.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼78°	▲87° ▼78°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

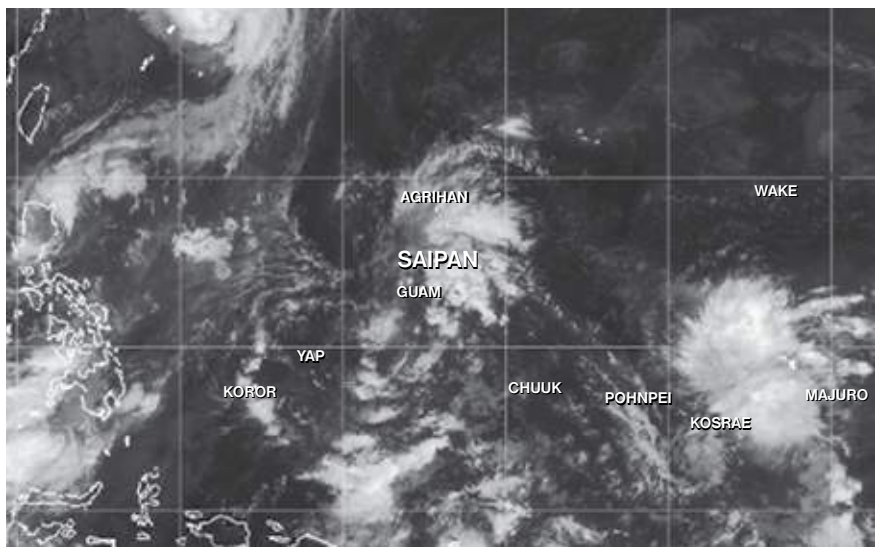
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Showers	▲84	▼77
Palau	Mostly Sunny	▲85	▼78
Yap	Showers	▲86	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲88	▼78
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲88	▼76
Kosrae	Showers	▲88	▼78
Majuro	Rain	▲85	▼79

Around The Globe

Auckland	Rain	▲63	▼52
Beijing	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼48
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	▲86	▼72
Honolulu	Showers	▲84	▼75
London	Partly Sunny	▲61	▼45
Los Angeles	Mostly Sunny	▲72	▼56
Manila	Rain	▲85	▼76
Melbourne	Mostly Cloudy	▲59	▼41
Miami	Thundershowers	▲90	▼80
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲68	▼56
Osaka	Rain	▲71	▼56
Paris	Showers	▲61	▼46
Pusan	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼56
Rome	Sunny	▲78	▼60
Salem	Sunny	▲68	▼42
San Francisco	Sunny	▲68	▼52
Seoul	Mostly Cloudy	▲70	▼46
Tokyo	Rain	▲63	▼52
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲72	▼55

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7, 2009
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A monsoon trough stretches southeastward from 17N132E through a circulation centered southwest of Guam at 9N143E to 6N154E then turns eastward through another circulation centered just south of Kwajalein Atoll at 7N166E to beyond 180 at 7N. Trade winds converging north of the circulation southwest of Guam are triggering scattered showers and a few thunderstorms over the Marianas between 12N and 19N from 142E to 151E. Convergent west winds south of the trough axis are generating scattered showers and few thunderstorms over the Republic of Palau, Yap State and Chuuk State in an area bounded by a line from 16N130E to 17N134E to Yap to 12N147E to EQ154E to eq140E to 6N134E back to 16N130E. Convergent winds associated with the circulation south of Kwajalein are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms between Kosrae and Majuro in an area from 15N165E to 5N171E to 4N167E to 9N161E back to 15N165E. Trade-wind convergence is triggering scattered showers across the Northern Marshall Islands within 75 miles of a line from 12N169E to 12N175E.

Tides

Saipan Harbor		
3:58 AM Today	Low Tide:	0.2 Feet
10:55 AM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
4:19 PM Today	Low Tide:	1.1 Feet
9:17 PM Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Friday	6:08 AM	6:01 PM
Saturday	6:08 AM	6:00 PM
Sunday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM
Monday	6:08 AM	5:59 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	9:00 PM	9:29 AM
Friday	9:58 PM	10:30 AM
Saturday	11:00 PM	11:31 AM
Sunday		12:27 PM
Monday	12:03 AM	1:20 PM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
  Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

For pictures:
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, CIC Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF SEPTEMBER 27, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597	11:50am	12:25pm	1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597	12:50pm	1:20pm	1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:20am	5:10am	Daily
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	Daily
C09597	11:50am	1:20pm	1, 7 via ROP
C09601	12:30pm	1:20pm	4, 5
C09603	3:30pm	4:20pm	Daily
C09605	6:30pm	7:20pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99	6:05am	8:40am	1, 2, 5, 6
NW78	9:00am	2:05pm	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW75	3:50pm	6:25pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	1, 3, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78	9:00am	11:40am	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves SPN Sep 26)

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604	2:20am	6:00am	1
OZ604	2:50am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:20am	1, 3, 4, 6 via KIX
OZ606	3:30pm	7:00pm	4, 7

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008	3:30am	6:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701	2:20am	11:25am	1 via ICN
OZ604/703	2:50am	11:25am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/933	3:30pm	8:40pm	Daily via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:45am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721	2:20am	11:45am	1 via ICN
OZ604/721	2:50am	11:45am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

C09598	3:15am	3:50am	5, 6
C09312	1:20pm	1:55pm	6

GUAM-ROTA (ROP)

C09598	2:10am	2:40am	5, 6
C09312	12:10pm	12:40pm	6

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09598	2:10am	3:50am	5, 6 via ROP
C09316	2:20am	3:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 7
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	Daily
C09600	10:20am	11:10am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C09312	12:10pm	1:55pm	6 via ROP
C09602	2:00pm	2:50pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

NW76	10:00am	2:35pm	Daily
NW77	6:35pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 via NGO
NW100	8:40pm	1:20am+1	1, 4, 5, 7 effective Oct 1

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:55pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7

NAGOYA (NGO)-SAIPAN

NW77	9:10pm	1:40am+1	2, 4, 5, 6, 7 (last DAILY flight leaves NGO Sep 26)

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:00pm	2:20am+1	4, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ605	9:00am	2:30pm	4, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	2, 3, 5, 7 via KIX
OZ603	7:40pm	1:10am+1	7
OZ603	8:10pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

CZ3007	7:30pm	2:40am+1	1, 5

MANILA-SAIPAN

OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/603	12:45pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:00pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	10:55pm	7:50am+1	Daily via GUM
OZ704/605	11:50pm	2:30pm+1	3, 6 via ICN

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/605	12:30am	2:30pm	4, 7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:10am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/603	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; PR: Philippine Airlines; NW: Northwest; OZ: Asiana
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The Saipan Tribune is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota			
FRE 100	7:00am	7:30am	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 100	7:50am	8:20am	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 200	9:00am	9:30am	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 200	9:50am	10:15am	Daily
Guam-Rota			
FRE 300	4:00pm	4:30pm	Daily
Rota-Saipan			
FRE 300	4:50pm	5:25pm	Daily
Saipan-Rota			
FRE 400	6:00pm	6:30pm	Daily
Rota-Guam			
FRE 400	6:45pm	7:15pm	Daily
Saipan-Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45am	6:55am	Daily
FRE 103	7:30am	7:40am	Daily
FRE 105	8:00am	8:10am	Daily
FRE 107	8:40am	8:50am	Daily
FRE 109*	9:10am	9:20am	Daily
FRE 111*	10:45am	10:55am	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40am	11:50am	Daily
FRE 115	1:00pm	1:10pm	Daily
FRE 117	2:30pm	2:40pm	Daily
FRE 119	4:00pm	4:10pm	Daily
FRE 121	4:40pm	4:50pm	Daily
FRE 123 *	5:40pm	5:50pm	Daily
FRE 125 *	6:00pm	6:10pm	Daily
Tinian-Saipan w/ connecting flights to Rota or Guam**			
FRE 102	7:05am	7:15am	Daily
FRE 104	7:50am	8:00am	Daily
FRE 106**	8:20am	8:30am	Daily
FRE 108**	9:00am	9:10am	Daily
FRE 110	10:00am	10:10am	Daily
FRE 112	11:05am	11:15am	Daily
FRE 114	12:00pm	12:10pm	Daily
FRE 116	1:30pm	1:40pm	Daily
FRE 118	2:50pm	3:00pm	Daily
FRE 120**	4:20pm	4:30pm	Daily
FRE 122**	5:00pm	5:10pm	Daily
FRE 124	6:05pm	6:15pm	Daily
FRE 126	6:20pm	6:30pm	Daily

Letter to the Editor

Progress made, but still more work to do

These past three years, as both a concerned citizen and as a first-term member of the House of Representatives, I have sought to remain true to my commitments to push for greater transparency and accountability in government; to encourage active and informed public participation in government; to promote the frugal and prudent expenditure of public funds; to prioritize the basic needs and long-term interests of the community; and to assist in the creation of an enduring vision of good governance and prosperity for the Commonwealth.

Progress has been made on all these fronts, and there is still much more work to do. With respect to transparency and accountability, the popular initiative to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature will finally be on this year's ballot. The initiative must now pass with two-thirds of the votes cast and counted in order to be enacted, and then the Legislature must adjust its rules and procedures accordingly. In addition, after months of hearings and briefings, the battle to uncover the sources and expenditures of public funds for the governor's federalization litigation was finally won in both the CNMI Superior Court and the Supreme Court in favor of transparency—but complete and up-to-date records are still to be obtained, and the experience has shed much light on ways to strengthen and clarify the Open Government Act in future legislation.

In terms of keeping the public informed and encouraging public involvement, I have sent out regular notices of House and Senate sessions, committee meetings, and public hearings as soon as they became available to my office. I have also made an effort to publicize as soon as possible House actions on bills, including our voting records and my reflections and reasons for voting as I did. In addition, in the last two years, public forums on the state of the legislature and CUC have been convened, as well as guided sunrise and sunset meetings to develop a long-term vision for the Commonwealth.

In light of the CNMI's severe fiscal problems, and believing that legislators must be advocates for fiscal prudence and lead by example, I have managed the public funds allocated to my office as frugally as possible. I drive my own car, answer my own phones, make my own appointments, write my own correspondence, and research and draft legislation in collaboration with the Legislative Bureau staff. Since coming into office in January 2008, I have spent, to date, a total of approximately $615 of public funds for office operations, including office supplies and travel to Rota and Tinian on official business. I have further introduced legislation to establish stricter guidelines for expenditures from legislators' operational accounts; House Bill 16-266 is still pending review in the Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

In addition to House Bill 16-266, I have sponsored or co-sponsored the following legislation:

■ **House Bill 16-79**, as originally drafted, to reverse the legislatively-imposed electric rate of 17 cents/kwh, in order to enable CUC to stabilize its financial condition;

■ **House Bill 16-191**, the Commonwealth Emergency Relief Act, to provide clearer guidelines for the circumstances under which the Governor may declare a state of emergency;

■ **House Bill 16-86**, the Resident Foreign National Act, to create a new 5-year CNMI immigration permit category for qualified long-term foreign workers, in order to liberalize and stabilize the CNMI's labor force;

■ **House Bill 16-277**, to amend certain provisions of Public Law 15-108, the Commonwealth Employment Act, in order to protect the due process rights of workers affected by the Act;

■ **House Bill 16-200**, to clarify and strengthen the Phosphate Detergent Act, and thereby better protect and enhance marine and groundwater quality;

■ **House Bill 16-267**, to create a new Marpi Protected Area;

■ **House Bill 16-274**, to clarify and strengthen the Litter Control Act, in order to improve enforcement of the Act for a cleaner and more healthful environment;

■ **House Resolution 16-100**, in support of the proposed Beach Road Corridor Improvement Project;

■ **House Bill 16-276**, to regulate the hours of operation of poker establishments;

■ **House Resolution 16-9**, to amend the House rules in order to provide full and fair public notice of all House sessions and meetings, and to improve public access to legislative records; and

■ **House Resolution 16-74,** to commence a special legislative investigation on allegations of public corruption against the Lt. Governor.

Legislation introduced by my colleagues that I have publicly supported and voted in favor of include: the Fiscal Year 2009 Appropriations Act (now Public Law 16-32); the Healthcare Corporation Act (House Bill 16-9, HS1; the Smoke Free Air (now Public Law 16-46); the CNMI Government and Public Deposit Safety Act (House Bill 16-4, HD4); the Attorney General Confirmation Act (Senate Bill 16-51, SD1); and legislative initiatives to prohibit the withdrawal of funds from the General Fund without appropriations made by law (House Legislative Initiative 16-11), to change the terms permitted for leaseholds on private lands from 55 to 75 years (House Legislative Initiative 16-4), and to prohibit any legislative increases in Retirement Fund benefits until all government obligations have been fully satisfied (House Legislative Initiative 16-13).

In addition, I have publicly supported the creation of a part-time and downsized legislature (House Legislative Initiative 16-7, still under review in committee); the establishment of a national marine monument in the Northern Marianas; the application of federal immigration and minimum wage laws in the CNMI; the adoption of a joint committee report rejecting the governor's request for an appropriation of public funds to support his lawsuit against the federal government; and the extension of U.S. permanent residency status and a pathway to citizenship for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens and FAS citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and long-term foreign workers.

I have also publicly opposed and voted against bills that I thought were short-sighted, poorly-reviewed, duplicative, potentially harmful to the community, or wasteful. In particular, I have voted against bills promoting shooting resorts and gambling (House Bills 16-31, 16-82, and 16-225); resolutions that opposed the creation of a national marine monument in the Northern Marianas; numerous appropriations for pet projects that were often passed the same day they were introduced with no fiscal analysis; and numerous bills, however nobly intended, that had been rushed to passage with little legislative review or public comment. I have further voted against the confirmations of board appointees for whom there had been no confirmation hearings, nor any formal vetting; and against major and questionable commercial public land leases to two corporations, both of which lacked proof of financing for their proposed developments.

As chair of the Saipan Legislative Delegation's Committee on Public Utilities & Infrastructure, I participate in the interagency CNMI Energy Steering Committee, which seeks to develop a comprehensive and sustainable energy plan for the CNMI. I have also coordinated legislative briefings with CUC on a range of issues, including the federal stipulated orders for water, wastewater, and used oil, and have commenced a preliminary oversight investigation on CUC in collaboration with the Office of the Public Auditor. An OPA report on performance audits of certain CUC contracts is expected to be completed in November, and discussions on legislation to improve long-term governance at CUC are ongoing, drawing on best practices for public utilities as well as lessons learned from past mistakes and continuing emergency declarations.

In the remaining months of my term as a member of the House, and for the next four years thereafter if elected to the Senate, my priorities are as follows:

■ **To continue advocating for the passage of a balanced budget** that prioritizes the basic needs of the Commonwealth and the government's obligations to the Retirement Fund as well as its other debts;

■ **To enact legislation to support and facilitate the restructuring and streamlining of local government**, working cooperatively with the Executive Branch and utilizing federally-funded technical assistance that is available for such purposes;

■ **To improve local governance and create a more stable business environment** by systematically reviewing, clarifying, and updating enabling statutes and management structures for critical government agencies, beginning with CUC, and by strengthening and formalizing the legislative confirmation process;

■ **To apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature**, and assist in the development of rules and procedures to ensure the Legislature's compliance with the law;

■ **To continue advocating for the granting of U.S. permanent residency status** for immediate relatives of U.S. and FAS citizens, CNMI permanent residents, and long-term foreign workers, in order to keep families together and stabilize the local workforce;

■ **To enact legislation to protect and enhance public health and the environment**, including the creation of a Marpi Protected Area, improved enforcement of the Liter Control Act, stricter prohibitions on the sale, use, manufacture, and importation of phosphate detergents, and the establishment of a simpler, more flexible zoning code that encourages orderly, sustainable development suited to the unique needs of our island community;

■ **To enact legislation to support and facilitate the development and implementation of a comprehensive energy plan**, with the goal of creating a sustainable energy future for the CNMI;

■ **To continue building a long-term vision for the Commonwealth,** and encouraging fresh, honest, and progressive citizens to enter into public service.

Progress has been made on all these fronts, and there is still much more work to do. With respect to transparency and accountability, the popular initiative to apply the Open Government Act to the Legislature will finally be on this year's ballot. The initiative must now pass with two-thirds of the votes cast and counted in order to be enacted, and then the Legislature must adjust its rules and procedures accordingly. In addition, after months of hearings and briefings, the battle to uncover the sources and expenditures of public funds for the governor's federalization litigation was finally won in both the CNMI Superior Court and the Supreme Court in favor of transparency—but complete and up-to-date records are still to be obtained, and the experience has shed much light on ways to strengthen and clarify the Open Government Act in future legislation.

Over the next few weeks, from Oct. 8 through Nov. 5, 2009, I will be convening weekly public forums every Thursday evening from 6pm to 8pm in villages throughout Saipan to share my positions on the issues and goals for the next few years, to answer questions, and to listen to the concerns of the community. The first public forum will be held on Thursday, October 8, 2009, beginning at 6pm at the Kagman Community Center.

In addition, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will be hosting a senatorial debate on Oct. 21, 2009. I strongly encourage the public to attend and would welcome the opportunity to participate in additional senatorial debates hosted by other organizations as well.

These are serious and challenging times for us all. Our Commonwealth needs trustworthy and forward-thinking leadership as much as it needs caring, well-informed, and active citizens who will voice their concerns, hold public officials accountable, and get involved in the effort to make this community a better place to live and visit. For my own part, I remain committed to realizing our collective vision for a just, prosperous, and sustainable CNMI now and in the years to come.

For more information, to share questions and concerns, or to make arrangements for personal meetings with me, I can be reached by email at tinasablan@gmail.com , by phone at (670) 285-3935, on Facebook, and at www.tinasablan.com .

Rep. Christina-Marie "Tina" Sablan
House of Representatives

NMC graduate publishes health booklet

Through a class project in cooperation with a local community health outreach program, Northern Marianas College graduate Lourdes "Lou" Villazon recently compiled a booklet on the factors and effects of heart disease that has been published for public dissemination.

The program, the Wise Women Village Project, is a federally funded outreach and preventive health program designed to increase health awareness among women in the CNMI.

Villazon

The booklet, entitled "A Healthy Heart," focuses on both the factors of heart disease and steps that can be taken to prevent and control risk among women in the CNMI. The booklet also discusses the links between heart disease and other health-related conditions.

Villazon, who recently graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education in May of 2009, compiled the project as part of Barbara Merfalen's Community Education Practicum class in the College's Spring 2009 semester. In searching for a project topic, she referred to WWVP coordinator Latisha Lochabay, who outlined the program's plans to develop educational resources that will be made available to the public.

"My discussions with Ms. Lochabay provided me with the necessary insight and resources I needed to compile my booklet," said Villazon. "Moreover, I am thankful for all the help and guidance from the Wise Women Village Project and am honored to have contributed to their outreach efforts."

The booklet, which is expected to be translated into Chamorro and Carolinian, will be made available at local health facilities and will be handed out at the WWVP's monthly village health screenings.

"The college community is extremely proud of Lou's achievement and contribution to the CNMI community," said NMC President Dr. Carmen Fernandez.

The Wise Women Village Project aims its efforts at reaching out to women who lack regular health care and provides them with free health screenings, referral services, and educational resources. The booklet complements the Wise Women Village Project's goal of providing physical educational health-related resources to the community. ***(PR)***

NMC *instructor awarded international* ESL *Teacher's Certification*

Northern Marianas College instructor Constantine "Dean" Papadopoulos, Ph.D., was recently awarded a Certificate in English Language Teaching to Adults by the University of Cambridge's English for Speakers of Other Language program.

The CELTA is internationally recognized credential offered through courses at the kingdom-based university.

The CELTA course is specially designed to expose participants to a variety of practical skills required of teachers of English to foreign students. It afforded participants an opportunity to deploy teaching practices in front of an actual audience. As a course assessment requirement, participants were given writing assignments focusing on adult learning, the English language system, language skills and classroom teaching.

"Dr. Papadopoulos's achievement brings great honor and prestige to the College community," said NMC president Dr. Carmen Fernandez. "His certification will surely enhance the College's efforts to provide a first rate education to both resident and foreign students."

Papadopoulos, who attended the certification course over the pass summer, is an instructor at the college's Language and Humanities Department. He has also written many periodicals focused on the effects and benefits of culture in education. His articled have been published in local and regional publication. ***(PR)***

BoG execs graduate from banking school

Guerrero, Marati, and Field join elite ranks

HAGATNA, Guam—The Bank of Guam Board of Directors, Management and Staff are proud to announce that Lou Leon Guerrero, Jackie Marati, and Loling Field have successfully completed the requirements of the Pacific Coast Banking School and graduated on Sept. 4, 2009 in Seattle, Washington with 211 executives from around the country.

For over 70 years, the prestigious Pacific Coast Banking School has partnered with the University of Washington Graduate School of Business to teach the business of banking to over 10,000 bankers and members of the financial services community. A three-year, masters-level extension program for senior officers in the banking industry, graduates attend a two-week resident session each August on the University of Washington campus and complete six rigorous inter-session assignments, including an original management thesis.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Loling Field, Lou Leon Guerrero, and Jackie Marati graduated from the Pacific Coast Banking School on Sept. 4, 2009 in Seattle, Washington.

Lou Leon Guerrero is the President, Board Chair and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank of Guam. A six-term senator and nursing professional, Guerrero has a postgraduate degree from University of California at Los Angeles. Guerrero serves on the Boards of GTA Guam, the Guam Memorial Hospital, and the Guam Humanities Council.

Jackie Marati is the Bank's Senior Vice President/Marketing Administrator. With the bank for 10 years starting in Corporate Banking and then serving as Special Assistant to the President, Marati has headed both the Bank's Human Resources and Marketing Departments. Marati serves on the boards of the Pacific Islanders in Communications (Honolulu) and Guam's Tourism Education Council.

Field, Assistant Vice President/Enterprise Risk Management Project Officer, is a 27-year bank veteran, having been with Bank of the Orient, Bank of Guam, and most recently Citizens Security/ANZ as their Vice President/Risk and Compliance, before returning to the Bank of Guam earlier this year. A graduate of Notre Dame High School, Field has completed numerous AIB courses and holds an Associates of Science degree from the University of Guam. ***(PR)***

MVA security guards provide helping hands

Security guards deployed by Marianas Visitors Authority at key remote visitor sites are going above and beyond the call of duty to not only deter crimes and return lost possessions, but to also help prevent unintentional harm and even save lives.

This was the case for Venerando Martin of G4S Security Forces during a recent routine check of the shore at Obyan Beach during heavy seas, when a Japanese diver suddenly began shouting for help, as his fellow divers were stranded and distressed outside the reef line. Martin immediately put in a call to the Boating Safety Unit for emergency assistance. Eventually, the divers were able to make it back to shore without further incident.

In recent months, officers have also reported forest fires in the Marpi area, provided first aid supplies, and reporting maintenance problems. They also continue to reunite owners with lost or forgotten possessions. In August, officers recovered everything from cellular phones, passports, airline tickets, hotel room keys, currency and assorted credit cards.

"Our monthly security reports show that our guards, along with many local residents, are making the extra effort to keep our islands safer for visitors and residents, alike," said MVA managing director Perry Tenorio. "MVA is very grateful for these community partners who are living the '*Hafa Adai Tirow* Way," with genuine pride in our island traditions of hospitality and aid to others."

MVA has security forces stationed at Laulau Beach, Obyan Beach, Banzai Cliff (*Puntan Sabaneta*), Bird Island Lookout (*Isleta Maigo Fahango*) and Grotto Dive Spot. ***(PR)***

NMI Democratic Party fundraiser this Saturday

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands will be holding their first fundraising event this Saturday, Oct. 10, 6pm to 9pm at the Fiesta Resort and Spa's Hibiscus Hall.

Tickets will be sold at $40 per person or $75 per couple and will be available at the door or you may call 287-3966 to purchase them today. The event will feature live entertainment and an all you can eat buffet.

The entire community is invited to come and mingle with the Democratic Party candidates where you will get a chance to let them know what's on your mind.

You will have the opportunity to meet and greet the candidate for the mayor of Saipan, Angelo O'Conner Villagomez; candidate for Senate, Justo Songao Quitugua; and Precinct 5 candidates Jesse Jones Torres and Willie Brundridge, Jr.

Here is your opportunity to ask the hard questions, share your ideas and give the party suggestions on how you feel our government should be run.

The Democratic Party of the Northern Mariana Islands is committed to serving the needs of our people. Come and join us for what promises to be a night to remember. ***(PR)***

BIRTHDAY GREETING

Happy birthday and much love going out to Cecilia "Auntie Cil" San Nicolas from all her family and friends as well as her entire MHS Dolphins family! We hope you have a wonderful day!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Special shoutout going out to the best sister/mother and daughter in the world! Lynn Fileguchol Yoromad!! Happy birthday, best wishes and may the good Lord continue to bless you dearly!! We love you very much!! Coming out from your friends and most especially your family.

TROLII'S BIRTHDAY

Belated happy birthday to Justice "Trolii" Theodore Ngewakl. May God continue to bless you today and always! Greetings come out from your loving Family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

DOUBLE BIRTHDAY CELEBRATIONS

Belated happy birthday to Wilfred "Kwek" Quitugua Lizama (Oct. 7) and Becky Lynn Cruz Lizama (Oct. 3). Wishing you many more blessed birthdays to come and hope you enjoyed your birthdays on the East Coast. Love from your families miles away from Saipan, Honolulu, and Illinois.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

HAPPY BIRTHDAY

Happy birthday Tanya Taitingfong. Best wishes and may the good Lord continue to bless you dearly! We love you very much! Greetings from your friends and family most especially from A.J. and your loving son Jatin.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Business

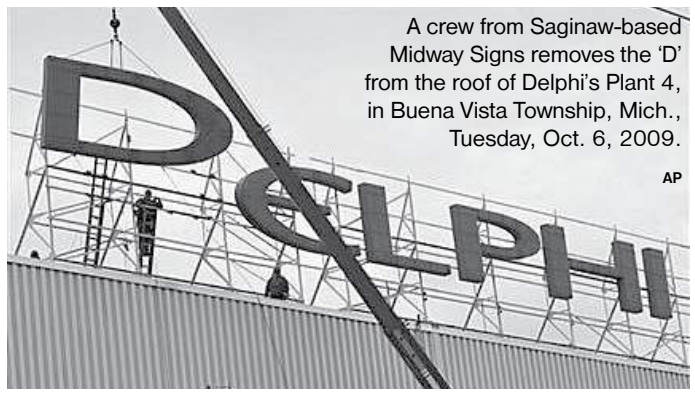
Delphi emerges from Ch. 11 after four years

NEW YORK (AP)—Auto parts supplier Delphi finally exited bankruptcy protection on Tuesday nearly four years to the day it filed for Chapter 11.

Delphi emerged as a new company after completing a deal with its lenders and receiving a promise for billions in loans from GM, which once owned Delphi and buys critical parts from them.

Delphi's survival ensures a steady stream of parts to General Motors Co., which spun off the company in 1999. GM has invested heavily in Delphi over the last four years to keep it from disappearing.

Weighed down by high labor costs, production cuts at GM and increasing foreign competition, the auto supplier filed for Chapter 11 on Oct. 8, 2005, the largest bankruptcy protection filing for the industry at the time and the 13th largest in U.S. history with $17.1 billion in assets.



A crew from Saginaw-based Midway Signs removes the 'D' from the roof of Delphi's Plant 4, in Buena Vista Township, Mich., Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009. AP

Delphi Holdings LLP, created by the company's emergence from Chapter 11, said Tuesday it has finished acquiring most of Delphi Corp.'s core businesses under its restructuring plan.

The exact details of the plan have not been publicly disclosed. Delphi is now a privately held company and doesn't have to reveal financial information.

"We expect that the industry and the competitive environment will continue to be demanding, but the restructuring we have already completed creates a strong platform and we expect to capitalize on that," said Rodney O'Neal, who will remain as president and CEO of the new Delphi.

Amazon cuts Kindle price, adds global version

CUPERTINO, Calif. (AP)—Amazon.com Inc. is cutting the price of its Kindle electronic-book reader yet again and launching an international version, in hopes of spurring more sales and keeping it ahead of a growing field of competitors.

With Wednesday's $40 reduction on the Kindle, the device now costs $259. It debuted in 2007 at $399 and started this year at $359, before another price cut in July.

In an interview, Amazon CEO Jeff Bezos said the company can now afford to reduce the price because of the increased number of Kindles the company is making—and selling.

Bezos called it Amazon's best-selling product, but Amazon has not disclosed sales figures for the Kindle, which has a 6-inch screen that displays shades of gray, room to store 1,500 books and the ability to download books wirelessly.

The price reduction also shows Amazon is trying to maintain a lead in the nascent e-reader market as the field gets more crowded.

FDIC sells stake in Corus Bank assets

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. has agreed to sell a 40 percent stake in a portfolio of Corus Bank assets for $554.4 million to a private-equity consortium led by Starwood Capital Group.

The investor group also includes TPG Capital, Perry Capital and WLR LeFrak. The FDIC initially will hold a 60 percent stake in the portfolio valued at $831.6 million.

The FDIC said on its Web site late Tuesday it received eight bids for a stake in the portfolio, which includes construction loans and real estate-owned assets with an unpaid principal balance of about $4.5 billion. It determined that the consortium's bid—which values the assets at $2.72 billion or 60 cents on the dollar—would result in the greatest return for the agency.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

AT&T to expand Internet calling services on iPhone

WASHINGTON (AP)—AT&T Inc. said late Tuesday that it will begin allowing iPhone owners to use Internet calling services on its wireless network. The phone giant, the exclusive wireless provider for Apple Inc.'s iPhone, has until now allowed Internet calling services to work on the popular device only over Wi-Fi connections. Those connections generally have limited mobility and therefore present less of a competitive threat to AT&T's core wireless calling business. The move comes two months after the Federal Communications Commission sent letters to AT&T, Apple and Google Inc. asking why the Google Voice messaging and calling application has not been approved for use on the iPhone.

Oil above $71 on optimism over economic recovery

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Oil prices rose above $71 a barrel Wednesday in Asia as increased optimism about a global economic recovery boosted expectations that crude demand will grow. Benchmark crude for November delivery was up 63 cents at $71.51 by midday Kuala Lumpur time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract rose 47 cents to settle at $70.88 Tuesday. Oil rose in sync with global stock markets. The Dow Jones industrial average gained a second straight day, advancing 1.4 percent Tuesday, its biggest gain since Aug. 21 as investors bet corporate profits will surge as the global economy recovers. Most Asian indexes also advanced in early trading Wednesday.

Yum Brands' Q3 profit up 18 pct, beats forecasts

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP)—A robust performance in China helped chain-restaurant operator Yum Brands Inc. post 18 percent growth in its third-quarter profit, easily beating Wall Street forecasts. The company that owns Taco Bell, KFC and Pizza Hut also raised its forecast for its annual earnings per share on Tuesday. Lower commodity expenses and general cost-cutting helped offset a 5 percent sales drop in the United States, where operating profit still grew at a strong clip for the three months. Yum's net income for the quarter ending Sept. 5 rose to $334 million, or 69 cents per share, compared with $282 million, or 58 cents per share, a year earlier. Excluding one-time items, it earned 70 cents per share.

Nation

Obama is mum on adding more troops in Afghanistan

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Barack Obama on Tuesday ruled out shrinking the Afghanistan war to a counterterrorism campaign. Yet he did not signal whether he is prepared to send any more troops to the war zone—either the 40,000 his top commander wants or a smaller buildup, according to several officials.

House and Senate leaders of both parties emerged from a nearly 90-minute conversation with Obama with praise for his candor and interest in listening. But politically speaking, all sides appeared to exit where they entered, with Republicans pushing Obama to follow his military commanders and Democrats saying he should not be rushed.

Obama

Obama is examining how to proceed with a worsening war that has claimed nearly 800 U.S. lives and sapped American patience. Launched after the Sept. 11, 2001, terrorist attacks to defeat the Taliban and rid al-Qaida of a home base, the war has lasted longer than ever envisioned - eight years on Wednesday.

Obama said the war would not be reduced to a narrowly defined counterterrorism effort, with the withdrawal of many U.S. forces and an emphasis on special operations forces that target terrorists in the dangerous border region of Afghanistan and Pakistan. Two senior administration officials say such a scenario has been inaccurately characterized and linked to Vice President Joe Biden, and that Obama wanted to make clear he is considering no such plan.

Holder worried about lawmakers' Gitmo objections

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Eric Holder said Tuesday he is worried that lawmakers' opposition to bringing terrorist suspects held at the military prison in Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to U.S. prisons could hurt the effort to close the detention center.

"The restrictions that we've had to deal with on the Hill give me great concern," said Holder, who disputed the claim, made often by Republican lawmakers, that Guantanamo Bay detainees are simply too dangerous to be brought to U.S. soil.

"I don't see how that in fact is accurate," he said. "One of the things we're going to have to do is to come up with a facility here in the United States to house people for trials that would be held here."

The Senate on Tuesday approved a defense spending bill that would also ban any transfer of accused enemy combatants from the facility into the United States. Last week, the House passed a nonbinding recommendation against bringing detainees to this country.

Current law permits transfer of detainees to face trial or go to prison. Earlier this year, Congress passed a number of restrictions on transfers of detainees, both within the United States or to other countries, requiring prior notification to lawmakers of such moves, and explaining why such transfers are safe.

AP Poll: Obama's job approval rises amid concerns

NEW YORK (AP)—President Barack Obama's approval ratings are starting to rise after declining ever since his inauguration, new poll figures show as the country's mood begins to brighten. But concerns about the economy, health care and war persist, and support for the war in Afghanistan is falling.

An Associated Press-GfK poll says 56 percent of those surveyed in the past week approve of Obama's job performance, up from 50 percent in September. It's the first time since he took office in January that his rating has gone up.

People also feel better about his handling of the economy and his proposed health care overhaul.

But not about the war.

Support for the war in Afghanistan has declined, the poll said Tuesday. And approval of Obama's handling of it is holding steady—in contrast to his gains in other areas—as he considers a big troop increase there. Poll respondents narrowly oppose the increase.

ACROSS THE NATION

Former Yale lab tech appears in court; hearing set

NEW HAVEN, Conn. (AP)—A former Yale University lab technician charged with strangling a graduate student and stuffing her body behind a laboratory wall appeared in court Tuesday but did not enter a plea to murder. Twenty-four-year-old Raymond Clark III appeared in an orange jumpsuit in New Haven Superior Court. He's accused of strangling 24-year-old Annie Le of Placerville, Calif. His lawyers say he eventually will plead not guilty. The judge scheduled a probable cause hearing for Oct. 20, in which sides will have the right to introduce evidence and call witnesses. Under Connecticut law, defendants accused of murder have the right to the hearing within 60 days of their arrest to decide if the case will go forward.

Abducted Tenn. baby's mom will get kids back

NASHVILLE, Tenn. (AP)—A mother will be reunited with her newborn son after losing him twice, first to a kidnapper and then to state custody after someone claimed a family member had tried to sell him. Infant Yair Anthony Carillo is no longer in state custody and authorities do not believe parents Maria Gurrolla and Jose Carillo were involved in the abduction, the Department of Children's Services and Nashville police said Tuesday. Maria Gurrolla lost custody of Yair and his three siblings after the baby was found safe in Alabama. Two officials familiar with the case, speaking on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss it, said the state took the children after someone claimed a family member had tried to sell the baby.

Ga. man ordered to die for molesting, killing boy

BRUNSWICK, Ga. (AP)—A Georgia man was ordered to die Tuesday for molesting and strangling a 6-year-old boy in his mobile home. Jurors in coastal Brunswick deliberated for two hours Tuesday before sentencing 61-year-old David Edenfield. He was convicted Monday of child molestation and murder in the March 2007 slaying of Christopher Michael Barrios. Edenfield is the first of three family members to stand trial for sexually assaulting and killing the boy in their mobile home. His wife and grown son have also been charged.

Asia

Al-Qaida showing smaller presence in Afghanistan

KABUL (AP)—Al-Qaida's role in Afghanistan has faded after eight years of war.

Gone is the once-formidable network of camps and safe houses where Osama bin Laden and his mostly Arab operatives trained thousands of young Muslims to wage a global jihad. The group is left with fewer than 100 core fighters, according to the Obama administration, likely operating small-scale bomb-making and tactics classes conducted by trainers who travel to and from Pakistan.

Assessing the real strength and threat posed by al-Qaida is at the heart of an evolving policy debate in Washington about whether or not to escalate the U.S. military presence in this country. The war was launched soon after the Sept. 11, 2001, attacks to root out al-Qaida and deny the militant movement a safe haven in a Taliban-ruled Afghanistan.

U.S. national security adviser James Jones said last weekend that the al-Qaida presence has diminished, and he does not "foresee the return of the Taliban" to power.

AP

In this Saturday Aug. 22, 1998 file photo, Jalaluddin Haqqani, then Taliban Army Supreme Commander, speaks during an interview in Miram Shah, Pakistan.

He said that according to the maximum estimate, al-Qaida has fewer than 100 fighters operating in Afghanistan without any bases or ability to launch attacks on the West.

"If the Taliban did return to power, I believe we are strong enough to deter them from attacking us again by strong and credible punishment and by containing them with regional allies like India, China and Russia," said former State Department official Leslie Gelb.

North Korea considers return to nuclear talks

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—North Korea's leader is offering to return to multinational disarmament talks in a renewed effort to draw Washington into one-on-one talks that the United States has yet to fully embrace.

Kim Jong Il's offer, reported Tuesday by North Korean state media, reflects Pyongyang's desire for direct engagement with Washington. The administration of President Barack Obama has said that might be possible but any talks should be part of the six-nation process aimed at ending the North's nuclear programs.

Kim told Chinese Premier Wen Jiabao on Monday that the North "is willing to attend multilateral talks, including the six-party talks, depending on the progress in its talks with the United States," China's Xinhua News Agency reported.

"Kim Jong Il wants to show through bilateral talks with the U.S. that his country is an equal partner of the United States, and this will strengthen his position before returning to the six-way talks," said analyst Lee Sang-hyun of the Sejong Institute, a South Korean security think tank.

Kim's comments were the clearest indication yet from Pyongyang that it might return to the talks from which it withdrew after conducting a rocket test in April and a second nuclear test in May. The regime said earlier it would never return to the multinational talks.

US troops ramp up Indonesia quake relief

PADANG, Indonesia (AP)—American troops set up a field hospital Tuesday and rerouted ships to aid victims of a powerful earthquake that left hundreds of thousands homeless, in their largest relief operation in Muslim-majority Indonesia since the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami.

The expansion of the U.S. mission comes as efforts shifted from searching for survivors amid the rubble to providing relief to villages that have been cut off by massive landslides generated by last week's magnitude-7.6 quake.

Aid workers from at least 20 countries focused on caring for the homeless, who huddled in makeshift shelters and cooked meager meals of rice and noodles over open fires or ate vegetables from their fields.

Rear Adm. Richard Landolt, who arrived Tuesday in Padang, the largest city in the quake zone, told The Associated Press that three U.S. Navy ships were on their way, full of supplies, food and heavy equipment that can be used to clear roads and excavate collapsed buildings.

ACROSS THE NATION

UN appeals for $74M in flood aid to Philippines

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—The United Nations appealed Tuesday for $74 million to help 1 million flood victims in the Philippines, which has been lashed by two major storms. U.N. humanitarian chief John Holmes said the appeal is seeking money for food, water, sanitation facilities, emergency shelter and health care for those worst affected by Tropical Storm Ketsana and Typhoon Parma. To jump-start the response, Holmes said he authorized an immediate allocation of $7 million from the U.N.'s Central Emergency Response Fund. The appeal has already received between $9 million and $10 million, Holmes said. In addition to U.N. efforts, he said many governments in the region and elsewhere, including the United States, are helping in different ways. Ketsana affected 4 million Filipinos, killed almost 300 people, left about 40 missing and destroyed or badly damaged almost 40,000 houses, Holmes said. Some 300,000 are still in emergency evacuation centers, he said.

Pakistan braces for more bombings

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan braced Tuesday for more militant attacks ahead of an anticipated offensive against a Taliban stronghold, as the insurgents said they bombed a U.N. relief agency because international aid work was not in "the interest of Muslims." The suicide bombing Monday at the World Food Program headquarters in Islamabad killed five people, prompting the U.N. to temporarily shut all its offices across the country. The attack proved the Taliban retained the ability to launch deadly strikes in the heart of Pakistan despite government hopes that the Aug. 5 killing of their leader Baitullah Mehsud in a CIA drone attack and recent military successes in the Swat Valley would send the group spiraling into chaos.

World

3 Americans share Nobel physics prize

NEW YORK (AP)—The next time you snap a digital photo and post it to Facebook, you can probably thank the three men who won the Nobel Prize in physics Tuesday.

They helped develop fiber-optic cable and invented the "eye" in digital cameras—technology that has given rise to film-free photography and high-speed Internet service, revolutionized communications and science, and utterly transformed the way we live, work and amuse ourselves.

Half the $1.4 million prize will go to Charles K. Kao, 75, for discovering how to transmit light signals long distance through hair-thin glass fibers. That led to fiber-optic communication networks that zip voice, video and high-speed Internet data worldwide in a split-second.

The other half will go to Willard S. Boyle, 85, and George E. Smith, 79, for opening the door to digital cameras by inventing a sensor that turns light into electrical signals.

These three Americans, the Royal Swedish Academy of Sciences declared, are "the masters of light" whose work "helped to shape the foundations of today's networked societies."

"What the wheel did for transport, the optical fiber did for telecommunications," said Richard Epworth, who worked with Kao at Standard Telecommunications Laboratories in Harlow, England, in the 1960s.

Here's one measure of the impact of Kao's work: The academy said that if all the glass fiber that now carries phone calls and data were wrapped around the world, it would span the globe more than 25,000 times.

Here's another measure: Just make a phone call across the Atlantic.

AP

George E. Smith, 79, receives a congratulatory telephone call at his home in Waretown, N.J., Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, after it was announced that he had won the Nobel Prize in physics.

Top Rwanda genocide suspect caught in Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP)—A top suspect wanted for orchestrating the killings of thousands of people in Rwanda's 1994 genocide—including children, hospital patients, priests and even an elderly and revered African queen—has been captured, police said Tuesday.

Nizeyimana

Former Rwanda Deputy Intelligence Chief Idelphonse Nizeyimana was arrested Monday in Uganda, police said, under an indictment from the Rwanda war crimes tribunal on charges of genocide, complicity in genocide, and direct and public incitement to commit genocide in the systematic slaughter of more than 500,000 Tutsis and moderate Hutus in 100 days in 1994.

Until last week, Nizeyimana was believed to have hidden in the jungles of eastern Congo, where he belonged to a militia called the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, or FDLR, that continues to commit atrocities. The Rwandan militia, made up of Hutus, is accused of having killed at least 1,000 civilians this year, including rampaging through a village and throwing children into a fire, human rights groups said.

The United States had offered a $5 million reward for the capture of Nizeyimana

WORLD BRIEFS

Diplomats converge on Honduras for talks

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Diplomats from throughout the hemisphere were converging Wednesday on Honduras to resolve a standoff that has left the impoverished Central American country with two presidents, a capital scarred by protests and a bitterly divided population. Delegates from more than 10 Latin and North American countries will be on hand to mediate talks between representatives of President Manuel Zelaya, who was ousted by the military three months ago, and the government of interim President Roberto Micheletti, who has the support of Honduras' Congress and Supreme Court but has faced intense international pressure to allow his predecessor's return. Micheletti set an optimistic tone in a national address late Tuesday, saying the talks would address with a "new spirit" the main issues of dispute over the San Jose Accord, a plan brokered by Nobel Prize-winning former Costa Rican President Oscar Arias.

Security walls at Samarra shrine now create divide

SAMARRA, Iraq (AP)—The U.S. military on Tuesday handed over the last of its bases outside Samarra, a city billed as a reconciliation success story. Worries linger though that wartime remedies like barriers and checkpoints will encourage divisions and undermine hard-won security gains. Nowhere is the split more apparent than in the half-mile passageway of blast walls leading to Samarra's famed Shiite Askariya shrine, once a flash point for sectarian slaughter. On one side of the walls are struggling Sunni shopkeepers. On the other are their traditional customers, Shiite pilgrims who for decades provided a steady stream of income for local merchants. The shrine—ravaged in a February 2006 blast blamed on Sunni insurgents—represents the quandary facing military and civic authorities across Iraq: How much can the lockdown tactics be lifted to restore some sense of normalcy.

Somali defense minister seized in Uganda

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)—Somalia's defense minister was seized Tuesday during a trip to the Ugandan capital in what the Somali president said was likely a "mistake" by Ugandan security forces. Yusuf Mohamed Siad was picked up as he walked out of a mosque in Kampala, Somali government spokesman Sheik Abdirisaq Qeylow said. Qeylow initially said Siad was kidnapped, but the circumstances were not immediately clear and the claim could not be independently confirmed. Calls to authorities in Uganda were not immediately returned.

Environment

Carbon dioxide effect offers look into Earth's future

By TIMOTHY B. WHEELER
(C) 2009, THE BALTIMORE SUN

ANNAPOLIS, Md.—This lush marsh south of Annapolis seems like an alien landscape—clear plastic bubbles dot the watery plain, with curved white pipes poking, periscope-like, out of the tall, green grass.

The odd-looking structures spread across Kirkpatrick Marsh are providing researchers with a peek into Earth's future, helping them understand how climate change could alter the world we live in.

For the past 23 years, Bert Drake and other scientists at the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center in Shady Side have been monitoring the growth of marsh grasses and plants encased in the clear plastic bubbles on the fringe of the Rhode River. Those patches have been fed a steady diet of air enriched with carbon dioxide—the gas scientists say is driving our climate toward irrevocable change as human activity spews more of it into the atmosphere.

What Drake and colleagues have found is good news, of a sort. These wetlands, which help protect the Chesapeake Bay from water pollution, might also offer some protection from the climate upheaval that experts expect to come with rising levels of carbon dioxide in the atmosphere.

Three-square, or scirpus olneyi, a sedge blanketing this salt marsh and commonly found throughout much of North America, grows thicker and faster as it's fed more carbon dioxide, Drake says.

Scientists have known for quite a while that plants generally grow better when exposed to air with higher-than-normal concentrations of carbon dioxide. But some shorter studies suggested that the plants' growth spurt would tail off after a few years. With funding at first from the Department of Energy and more recently from the U.S. Geological Survey, Drake and colleagues tested the long-term effects by piping carbon dioxide into chambers enclosing the marsh plants. The clear plastic allowed sunlight to penetrate, so plants' photosynthesis was not affected. The researchers enriched the air inside to double the level of CO2 in the open air outside—about how concentrated the gas might be in the Earth's atmosphere by the end of the century, Drake notes, given current increases from burning fossil fuels.

They compared the number and size of plants inside the chambers with patches of vegetation outside in the open air, and they checked the carbon-dioxide effect on another marsh plant, Spartina patens, or saltmeadow cordgrass, which is known not to respond to elevated levels of the gas.

Now, after more than two decades of tracking in the longest-running field study of its kind, Drake can say, "The bottom line is these plants have taken up a lot more carbon over the course of the study." And they don't become saturated.

Scientists have found similar responses in other plant communities. Drake and others have monitored a tract of scrub oak forest near Kennedy Space Center in Florida for more than a decade, and found the bushy trees also took off with a boost in carbon dioxide. Drake has been working recently with researchers setting up a parallel experiment in Norway on the edge of the Arctic.

But the Smithsonian scientist cautions that plants likely won't save the planet from gorging on greenhouse gases. That's because his research also has found that the marsh plants' growth really is controlled by several factors—the most important being how much water they get.

"It depends very much on rainfall. If there's no water, it can't work," he says of the marsh sedge's tendency to act like a carbon sponge.

That could be a problem, because scientists predict that climate shifts could disrupt precipitation patterns in this region. Rain and snow might fall more heavily in winter and spring, climate models indicate, but less frequently, coming in big storms followed by dry spells. Moisture in soil and plants also is likely to evaporate more readily as temperatures gradually climb.

"It's good news and bad news," concludes Drake. "It's great if the plants can take up CO2, but they may not be able to do that."

Patrick Megonigal, one of Drake's Smithsonian colleagues, has found similarly mixed news about the ability of marshes like this to cope with another climate-change effect—rising sea level.

Scientists have worried that as polar ice melts and the oceans warm, sea level will rise by several feet over the next century and could essentially drown wetlands, which serve as nature's kidneys. They filter nitrogen, phosphorus and sediment out of water draining off the land before they can foul rivers and bays like the Chesapeake.

But Megonigal and colleagues have learned that the same carbon dioxide believed to be fueling rising sea levels might also help salt marshes outgrow rising waters—for a time, anyway. The extra greenhouse gas stimulates root growth, building up the surface of the marsh. Kirkpatrick Marsh apparently has managed to survive in this spot for thousands of years even though sea level has been slowly rising.

"It's one of those silver lining stories," says Megonigal, 50, a senior scientist. He notes that probes sunk into the muck beneath the marsh have found evidence it has risen in elevation by about 15 feet in the last 10,000 years, since the end of the last Ice Age.

"As sea level rose, this marsh, millimeter by millimeter, built its own soil out of dead plant material and rose 15 feet," he says. He and his research team set up their own village of clear plastic chambers on the marsh to pipe carbon dioxide in to patches of vegetation, then carefully monitored the level of the mucky soil in which the plants were growing to see if, and how fast, it rose.

Four years on, they've found, as Drake's longer study did, that giving the plants more carbon dioxide boosts the elevation of the marsh above sea level.

He cautions, however, that all types of wetlands may not respond the same way to increased carbon dioxide, and that even salt marshes such as this one might not survive if sea level rises at an increasing rate, as many project it will. A faster rise in the seas could outstrip the ability of the marsh to stay above water.

"This won't eliminate the dangers of rising sea level for marshes," he says. "It will only mitigate it." He figures there's a "window of opportunity" to curb the increase in sea level over the next several decades before it overwhelms the marsh's natural buildup.

Should marshes like this go under, that could spell more trouble for the beleaguered Chesapeake Bay, since all the nitrogen locked up in the wetland soil and vegetation would be released into waters already choking on too much of the nutrient. That's just one of the reasons why scientists have warned that climate change could complicate the effort to restore the bay.

"We still don't know what to say about how the effects of climate change are going to affect ecosystems," Drake says, "but we're starting to really worry."

Left, Smithsonian Environmental Research Center microbial ecologist Patrick Megonigal looks at equipment used to gather data on carbon dioxide.
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Below, scientist Bert Drake of the Smithsonian Environmental Research Center holds salt grass (in his left hand) and a type of hedge used at the Kirkpatrick Marsh south of Annapolis, Md.
THE BALTIMORE SUN

Going easy on the Earth and your wallet

By NANCY TREJOS
(C) 2009, THE WASHINGTON POST

WASHINGTON—Going green has become a national priority, but for many Americans, especially those who have lost jobs or have credit card debt, cost can be a major deterrent.

In fact, 69 percent of consumers who had not gone green thought green products were too expensive, according to a survey by Grail Research.

Environmental experts acknowledge that some green products can be costly. Depending on the size of your house, installing a solar heating system can cost up to $100,000. A hybrid car can cost more than $20,000, and it can take a while to make up the savings from buying a cheaper, less-fuel-efficient vehicle. Sure, there are tax advantages—most energy-efficient improvements to already-built homes qualify for a tax credit of 30 percent of the project cost, for instance—but the upfront costs can be steep.

"Going green at home can cost a lot if you want it to, but it doesn't have to," said Glenn Croston, author of "75 Green Businesses" and "Starting Green." "There are plenty of eco-luxuries available that are quite costly, but there are plenty of green choices you can make that cost little or save you money."

When it comes to living an environmentally friendly lifestyle without breaking your budget, experts have three words of advice: reduce, reuse and recycle.

Peter Krull, president of Krull & Co., a socially and environmentally conscious financial services firm in Darien, Ga., said two of the most basic actions people can take are installing an inexpensive, programmable thermostat and turning off the lights when leaving a room for a long time.

"In this economy, someone who is struggling, someone who is not sure they will have a job next month, probably will not pay money on insulating their entire home," he said, "but they can turn off the lights and get programmable thermostats."

Consumers can take other small steps to help the environment.

Take Zaccai Free, a Northwest Washington resident and vegetarian for 15 years. The 37-year-old author of children's books finds multiple uses for items. When he buys lemons, he makes lemonade, then uses the rinds as deodorizers. Rubbing alcohol doubles as glass cleaner. He also walks or takes public transportation everywhere, and he buys clothing at thrift stores.

"Going green is not about buying the latest high-end cleaning supplies and exotic foods," he said.

Shel Horowitz, author of "Painless Green: 110 Tips to Help the Environment, Lower Your Carbon Footprint, Cut Your Budget, and Improve Your Quality of Life—With No Negative Impact on Your Lifestyle," lists a few simple tips to help the environment.

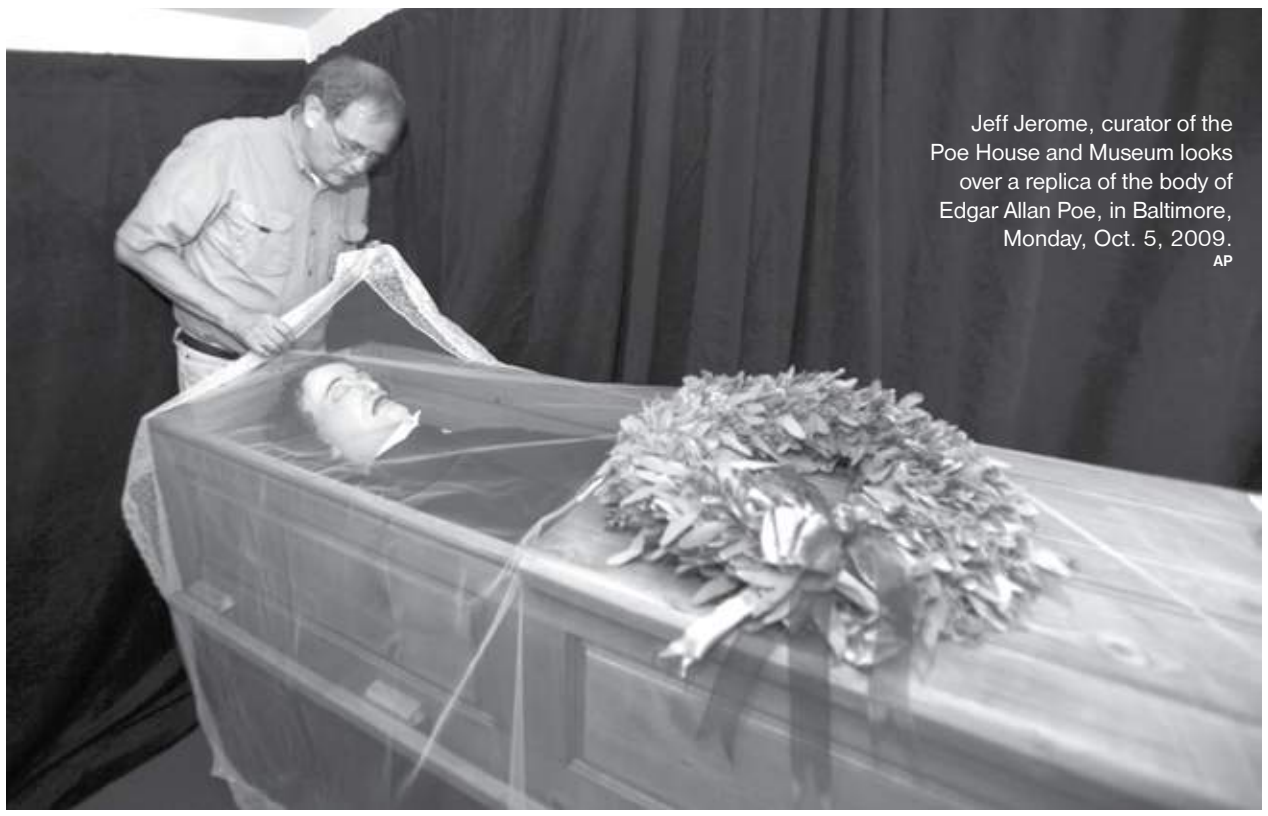
Wet your toothbrush, then turn the water off while you're brushing. Use fans instead of air conditioners. If you have drapes, close them to help keep heat in on cold winter nights.

Tips from other experts: Turn down your thermostat a few degrees and don a sweater. Hang-dry your clothing. Walk, bike or take public transportation to run your errands. If you have to drive, bundle your errands together so you can do them all in one trip. Repair old cellphones instead of tossing them away.

Indeed, there are ways to be environmentally savvy and save money, experts say.

Valerie Reddemann, founder and president of Greenfeet.com, doesn't mind buying a cup of coffee at a shop, but she'll take her own coffee mug because many places offer discounts if you do. Reddemann is also strategic about food containers. For instance, she washes and reuses plastic storage bags at least a dozen times before tossing them. "It just takes a little bit of practice," she said.

Life & Style



Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum looks over a replica of the body of Edgar Allan Poe, in Baltimore, Monday, Oct. 5, 2009. AP

Edgar Allan Poe finally getting proper funeral

BALTIMORE (AP)—For Edgar Allan Poe, 2009 has been a better year than 1849. After dozens of events in several cities to mark the 200th anniversary of his birth, he's about to get the grand funeral that a writer of his stature should have received when he died.

One hundred sixty years ago, the beleaguered, impoverished Poe was found, delirious and in distress outside a Baltimore tavern. He was never coherent enough to explain what had befallen him since leaving Richmond, Va., a week earlier. He spent four days in a hospital before he died at age 40.

Poe's cousin, Neilson Poe, never announced his death publicly. Fewer than 10 people attended the hasty funeral for one of the 19th century's greatest writers. And the injustices piled on. Poe's tombstone was destroyed before it could be installed, when a train derailed and crashed into a stonecutter's yard. Rufus Griswold, a Poe enemy, published a libelous obituary that damaged Poe's reputation for decades.

But on Sunday, Poe's funeral will get an elaborate do-over, with two services expected to draw about 350 people each—the most a former church next to his grave can hold. Actors portraying Poe's contemporaries and other long-dead writers and artists will pay their respects, reading eulogies adapted from their writings about Poe.

"We are following the proper etiquette for funerals. We want to make it as realistic as possible," said Jeff Jerome, curator of the Poe House and Museum.

Advance tickets are sold out, although Jerome will make some seats available at the door to ensure packed houses. Fans are traveling from as far away as Vietnam.

The funeral is arguably the splashiest of a year's worth of events honoring the 200th anniversary of Poe's birth. Along with Baltimore—where he spent some of his leanest years in the mid-1830s—Poe lived in or has strong connections to Boston, New York, Philadelphia and Richmond.

With the funeral angle covered, the Edgar Allan Poe Museum in Richmond staged a re-enactment last weekend of his death. Those with a more academic interest in Poe can attend the Poe Studies Association's annual conference from Thursday through Sunday in Philadelphia.

Visitors in Baltimore for the funeral can enjoy a new exhibit at the Baltimore Museum of Art, "Edgar Allan Poe: A Baltimore Icon," which includes chilling illustrations to "The Raven" by Edouard Manet.

Baltimore has a decided advantage over the other cities that lay claim to Poe, notes BMA director Doreen Bolger. "We have the body," she said.

This week, that's true in more ways than one. Jerome said he's gotten calls from people who thought he was going to exhume Poe's remains and rebury them.

"When they dug up Poe's body in 1875 to move it, it was mostly skeletal remains," Jerome said. "I've seen remains of people who've been in the ground since that time period, and there's hardly anything left."

Instead, Jerome commissioned local special-effects artist Eric Supensky to create an eerily lifelike—or deathlike—mock-up of Poe's corpse.

"I got chills," Jerome said Monday upon seeing the body for the first time. "This is going to freak people out."

The body will lie in state for 12 hours Wednesday at the Poe House, a tiny rowhome in a gritty section of west Baltimore. Visitors are invited to pay their respects.

Following the viewing will be an all-night vigil at Poe's grave at Westminster Burying Ground. Anyone who attends will have the opportunity to deliver a tribute.

On Sunday morning, a horse-drawn carriage will transport the replica of Poe's body from his former home to the graveyard for the funeral.

Actor John Astin, best known as Gomez Addams on TV's "The Addams Family," will serve as master of ceremonies.

"It's sort of a way of saying, 'Well, Eddie, your first funeral wasn't a very good one, but we're going to try to make it up to you, because we have so much respect for you,'" said Astin, who toured as Poe for years in a one-man show.

The service won't be a total lovefest, however. The first eulogy will come from none other than Griswold.

"People are asking me, 'Jeff, why are you inviting him? He hated Poe!'" Jerome said. "The reason is, most of these people defended Poe in response to what he said about Poe's life, so we can't have this service without having old Rufus sitting in the front row, spewing forth his hatred."

Eulogies will follow from actors portraying, among others, Sarah Helen Whitman, a minor poet whom Poe courted after his wife's death, and Walt Whitman, who attended the dedication of Poe's new gravestone in 1875 but didn't feel well enough to speak. Writers and artists influenced by Poe, including Arthur Conan Doyle and Alfred Hitchcock, will also be represented.

Jerome expects to cry—one reason he won't be speaking. Even his rivals are impressed with the scale of the tribute.

"Annoyed as I am with Baltimore sometimes, I have to give them credit," said Philadelphia-based Poe scholar Edward Pettit, who argues his city was of greater importance to Poe's life and literary career. "Baltimore has done an awful lot to maintain the legacy of Poe over the last 100-some years."

Hilary Mantel wins Booker prize for fiction

LONDON (AP)—A tale of political intrigue set during the reign of King Henry VIII won the prestigious Man Booker prize for fiction Tuesday.

Hilary Mantel's "Wolf Hall" scooped the 50,000-pound ($80,000) prize. Mantel's novel charts the upheaval caused by the king's desire to marry Anne Boleyn, as seen through the eyes of royal adviser Thomas Cromwell.

Mantel's novel beat stiff competition from a shortlist that included previous Booker winners A.S. Byatt and J.M. Coetzee.

Mantel told a London audience that if winning the Booker Prize was like being in a train crash, "at this moment I am happily flying through the air."

The chairman of the Booker prize judges, James Naughtie, said the decision to give "Wolf Hall" the award was "based on the sheer bigness of the book. The boldness of its narrative, its scene setting ... The extraordinary way that Hilary Mantel has created what one of the judges has said was a contemporary novel, a modern novel, which happens to be set in the 16th century."

"Wolf Hall" depicts the chaos that results from the king's longing for a male heir—a desire that led him to leave his first wife, Catherine of Aragon, for Anne Boleyn. The Vatican's refusal to annul the marriage led the king to reject the authority of the pope and install himself as head of the Church of England.

The book centers on the real-life figure of Cromwell, depicted as a ruthless but compelling polymath straining against the certainties of his age.

Mantel said Cromwell was the king's "chief fixer, spin doctor, propagandist for one of the most eventful decades of English history."

"He was a blacksmith's son who ended up Earl of Essex," Mantel told the BBC before winning the prize. "So how did he do it? That's the question driving the book."

The Guardian newspaper said Mantel "persuasively depicts this beefy pen-pusher and backstairs maneuverer as one of the most appealing—and, in his own way, enlightened—characters of the period." The Times of London called "Wolf Hall" a "wonderful and intelligently imagined retelling of a familiar tale from an unfamiliar angle—one that makes the drama unfolding nearly five centuries ago look new again, and shocking again, too."

Both reviewers said they were disappointed to put the book down.

Mantel said it's no surprise we remain fascinated by the time of Henry VIII, recently depicted in TV series "The Tudors" and films like "The Other Boleyn Girl." She said the period "has everything. It has sex and melodrama, betrayal, seduction and violent death. What more could you hope for?"

Mantel, 57, is a former social worker and film critic who has written short stories, the memoir "Giving Up the Ghost" and novels including 2005's "Beyond Black," which was shortlisted for a Commonwealth Writers' Prize and the Orange Prize for Fiction.

She spent five years writing Wolf Hall and is currently working on a sequel.

A Booker win all but guarantees a a big surge in sales. Last year's winner, Aravind Adiga's "The White Tiger," has sold more than half a million copies and been translated into 30 languages. Janine Cook, fiction buyer for Waterstone's book store chain, said Mantel's work was already its best-selling work of all the books on the shortlist, calling it a "perfect winner."

The six shortlisted books included Coetzee's "Summertime," a fictionalized memoir in which a young English biographer works on a book about a dead writer named John Coetzee. The five other finalists were Byatt's "The Children's Book," Adam Foulds' "The Quickening Maze," Simon Mawer's "The Glass Room" and Sarah Waters' "The Little Stranger."

The prize is open to novels in English by writers from Britain, Ireland or the Commonwealth of former British colonies. Apart from South African Coetzee, all this year's finalists were British.

PI pleads no contest in California conspiracy case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A private investigator who once worked for A-list defendants such as Michael Jackson and Winona Ryder pleaded no contest Tuesday to charges that he tried to pay off a suspected rape victim.

Bradley Miller entered his plea to one count of conspiracy to obstruct justice and three counts of bribing a witness. He faces up to five years in prison when he's sentenced in April.

Miller's attorney, Mark Werksman, said his client wants to put the case behind him and move on with his life.

Prosecutors said Miller and two other men plotted to prevent the live-in girlfriend of Alex Izquierdo from testifying against him. Izquierdo was charged with rape, torture and other crimes. He later pleaded guilty to three counts and was sentenced to 22 years in state prison.

Miller was charged along with George Izquierdo, Izquierdo's father, and Camilo Valentin, both of whom are scheduled to go on trial in January.

The girlfriend was set to testify at Izquierdo's trial in 2005 when Valentin allegedly drove her to Las Vegas. All three men are accused of paying her thousands of dollars to remain there.

She was eventually located and returned to Los Angeles.

Alex Izquierdo was represented by attorney Mark Geragos, who was not accused of being involved in the alleged conspiracy or payoff.

Geragos has long worked with Miller, including during Geragos' unsuccessful defense of actress Ryder against shoplifting charges, and when Geragos represented Jackson at one point in a child molestation case. The singer changed attorneys before being acquitted.

Polanski loses first round in extradition battle

BERN, Switzerland (AP)—Roman Polanski lost the first round Tuesday in his battle to avoid extradition to the U.S. for having sex in 1977 with a 13-year-old girl. Already locked in a Zurich cell for the last dozen days, Polanski learned he will remain incarcerated for an extended period as the Swiss Justice Ministry rejected his plea to be released from custody.

Swiss authorities expressed fear he might flee the country if freed from prison. The director of such film classics as "Rosemary's Baby" and "Chinatown" has been wanted by U.S. authorities since fleeing sentencing 31 years ago.

"We continue to be of the opinion that there is a high risk of flight," said ministry spokesman Folco Galli, explaining the decision.

Galli told The Associated Press that the threat was too great for the government to accept bail or other security measures in exchange for the release of the filmmaker.

Polanski was apprehended Sept. 26 as he arrived in Zurich to receive an award from a film festival. Authorities in Los Angeles consider him a convicted felon and a fugitive, and Switzerland says there has been an international warrant out on him since 2005.

Polanski's legal representatives are also appealing to Switzerland's federal criminal court to free the director. Galli said the Justice Ministry has submitted a letter to the tribunal explaining why it opposes release even on bail.

Legal experts say Polanski stands a minimal chance of a speedy release, even if his lawyers have suggested he be held under house arrest in his chalet in the luxury resort of Gstaad.

"In practice, I don't remember any case where a fugitive has been released on bail while awaiting extradition to a foreign country," said former Zurich prosecutor Peter Cosandey, adding that Polanski's ownership of an Alpine chalet doesn't aid his case greatly.

"He could easily disappear," Cosandey told The AP, referring to Switzerland's lax border controls. "He could just hop on a train to Germany. Coming by plane, you're often just waived on. By car, it's even easier."

Dieter Jann, another Zurich ex-prosecutor, has said extradition would be hard to fight, and he thought Switzerland had followed procedures correctly.

In Paris, Polanski's lawyers took note of the decision and said they would focus on convincing the court to free Polanski.

"In particular, Mr. Polanski undertakes to remain in Switzerland for the duration of the extradition procedure, and to respect all obligations that could be imposed on him to guarantee this commitment," said a statement.

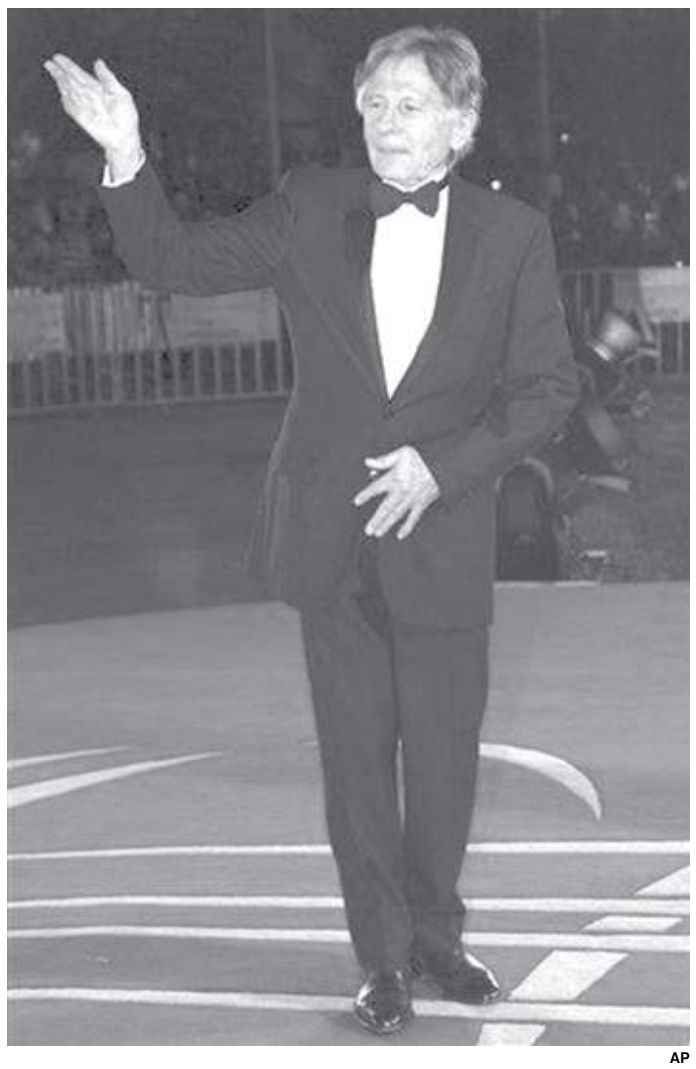
One of the lawyers, Herve Temime, added that Polanski did not pose a flight risk.

"We sincerely hope that the Swiss judges are able to remain detached," he told reporters.

Polanski was accused of plying the underage girl with champagne and part of a Quaalude pill during a modeling shoot in 1977, and raping her. He was initially indicted on six felony counts, including rape by use of drugs, child molesting and sodomy.

He pleaded guilty to the lesser charge of unlawful sexual intercourse. In exchange, the judge agreed to drop the remaining charges and sentence him to prison for a 90-day psychiatric evaluation.

However, he was released after 42 days by an evaluator who deemed him mentally sound and unlikely to offend again.



AP

In this Nov. 14 2008 file photo, Polish-born filmmaker Roman Polanski arrives for the opening ceremony at the 8th Marrakech Film Festival in Marrakech.

The judge responded by saying he was going to send Polanski back to jail for the remainder of the 90 days and that afterward he would ask Polanski to agree to a "voluntary deportation." Polanski then fled the country, on Feb. 1, 1978, the day he was scheduled to be sentenced to the additional time.

Galli confirmed that Washington has yet to file a formal request seeking extradition. But he said the U.S. probably wouldn't need its entire 60-day period to submit all documents.

"I assume this is a priority case in the United States," Galli said.

Polanski looks set to remain in prison for months as his case in the Swiss courts progresses. The criminal court has said it will rule on the filmmaker's request in the "next weeks," and a verdict in either direction can be appealed to the country's highest judicial body, the Federal Tribunal.

Galli said Polanski would remain in prison for the duration of this process.

Cosandey, an expert in international criminal cases, said Polanski's lawyers may seek to sway the court with promises such as a bail pledge as high as 1 million francs ($1 million).

"But it's hard to say if this will be successful," Cosandey said. "If the court just follows the formal treaty, he has to stay in prison. The fact that he's a prominent guy won't help him in Switzerland."

Polanski has received backing from directors and film stars in Hollywood and Europe, and from government officials in France and Poland, where he holds citizenship. But some of that support has waned since the original shock of his arrest, with leading French and Polish officials urging a more restrained reaction considering the crime.

In Switzerland, debate has raged among parliamentarians and cultural figures over the neutral country's role in arresting Polanski as he came to attend a government-backed festival. Few, however, have challenged the legality of his imprisonment and likely extradition.

Former Justice Minister Christoph Blocher said last week the director should have been warned—an assertion rejected by legal experts—but added that the case against Polanski now was quite simple and that he "must be extradited."

Polanski and the victim, Samantha Geimer, reached a $500,000 settlement in October 1993, according to documents recently released in Los Angeles.

Winans duo releases first gospel album in 15 years

ATLANTA (AP)—BeBe and CeCe Winans are looking to show their family remains strong as they launch their first album in 15 years while dealing with the loss of their father and BeBe's upcoming court date in a misdemeanor assault case.

CeCe Winans said she believes it's an opportunity for the duo to follow the same message they have sung in their inspirational lyrics: Have faith.

"It has to put be put through the test," she said. "We sang about the answer for years. So when we experience the trials and tribulations, we have to apply the same answer we've been telling others for years. It's a reality. We have to make the walk and not just talk about it."

On Tuesday, about six months after their father David "Pop" Winans Sr. died in Nashville, BeBe and CeCe Winans released "Still." It's the first album in 15 years for the duo, which has won five Grammys and seven Dove Awards.

Recently, after taping a show at the Gospel Music Channel, the brother and sister reflected on how "Pop" influenced their careers, keeping them humble during their time of soaring success.

While recording "Still" with CeCe, BeBe said their father often came to mind. So did their brother Ronald, who died in 2005.

"Everything we do, we think about them," said BeBe, 47. "We had to draw on each other's strengths on this one. We'll always remember everything we've learned from our father. He kept us grounded no matter how successful we became."

AP

In this Sept., 10, 2009 photo, BeBe, right, & CeCe Winans are pictured, in East Point, Ga.

BeBe, CeCe and their eight brothers and sisters were raised by gospel stars David and Delores Winans in one of gospel music's first families.

The brother-sister duo's hits include 1991's "Addicted to Love" and the 1996 release "Feels Like Heaven (With You)." They have turned out nine albums, going platinum once and gold three times.

CeCe stepped out on her own as a solo artist, releasing eight albums to win one of her seven Grammys with this year's album "The Kingdom Come." BeBe has produced six solo albums and has won three Grammy awards.

They were once criticized by gospel purists for their R&B-infused gospel sound.

But many believe BeBe and CeCe's contemporary sound helped pave the way for top-selling artists like Mary Mary and Kirk Franklin.

"They showed how gospel music can be portrayed in another way," said Tina Campbell of the sister duo Mary Mary. "Some were afraid to do it. But they did with excellence. So when I first heard about them releasing their new album, I screamed with joy. That's how much they mean to gospel music."

Although they have matured over the past 15 years, BeBe and CeCe say they still believe songs can be inspirational without explicitly mentioning "God" or "Jesus."

"We're offering up our praises and how we express ourselves," said CeCe, 45. "Most accept it now, and some are going to have their opinion. And that's fine."

"Still" is a mixture of laid-back songs like the album's first single, "Close To You," and uptempo songs such as "He Can Handle It." Mervyn Warren, Mario Winans and Warryn Campbell each produced tracks on the album.

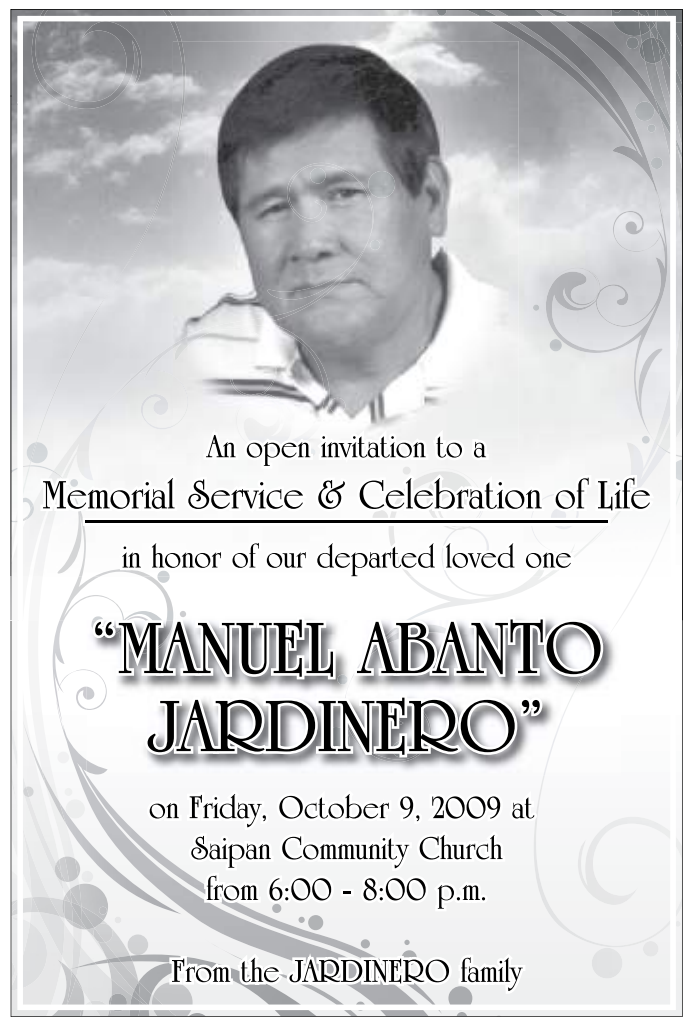
BeBe, who wrote most of the songs, said he had to rely on his faith when he was charged with misdemeanor domestic assault after authorities said he pushed his ex-wife to the ground in Nashville in March. A court date is set for Oct. 20.

The dispute came during a time when BeBe was a judge on BET's television show "Sunday Best." When the charges were made public, he had to learn how to endure criticism.

"I'm wiser in my purpose," he said. "You understand the industry and how people perceive you—whether it's negative or positive. Over the time, my skin became thicker."

BeBe believes the adversity has made the family stronger too.

"We're just like any other family that goes through the ups and downs," he said. "But understanding who God is and how He keeps you through, I know that everything will be all right."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Letterman's apologies bring big night in ratings

NEW YORK (AP)—While David Letterman would undoubtedly do without the personal turmoil, his blackmail scandal is great for business.

The late-night talk show host's apologies to his wife and staff made for gripping television, and more viewers tuned in to his CBS program than watched anything on NBC in prime-time on Monday. That includes Letterman's old rival, Jay Leno.

Letterman used most of his monologue for jokes at his own expense. In revealing last week that he was the victim of an alleged blackmail scheme, Letterman also admitted to having sexual relationships with women who worked on his "Late Show."

AP

In this publicity image released by CBS, Martin Short, left, and Steve Martin joke with David Letterman, right, during a taping of "The Late Show with David Letterman," on Monday, Oct. 5, 2009, in New York.

When the laughs quieted down, Letterman apologized to his staff for "putting up with something stupid I've gotten myself involved in." Many had been humiliated by questions from reporters. Letterman said the relationships were in the past. He married longtime flame Regina Lasko in March, and said he is intent upon repairing their marriage.

"Let me tell you folks, I got my work cut out for me," he said.

CBS News producer Robert J. "Joe" Halderman has pleaded not guilty to charges of trying to extort $2 million from Letterman.

Although Letterman has acknowledged having more than one sexual relationship with staff members, Halderman referred to only one woman by name—Stephanie Birkitt—in his alleged extortion attempt, according to a law enforcement official who spoke on condition of anonymity because of the continuing investigation. Birkitt, Letterman's assistant, is Halderman's former live-in girlfriend.

The 5.7 million viewers who tuned in to Letterman Monday more than doubled the audience for NBC's "Tonight" show with Conan O'Brien, according to the Nielsen Co. It was slightly less than the 5.9 million who watched Thursday when Letterman broke the news of the alleged extortion attempt.

The ratings are a testament to the power of the Internet after Letterman's representatives released details of the scandal to the media about three hours before his show aired Thursday. His audience that night was more than a million more than usual, meaning word spread quickly and encouraged people to tune in.

The timing also couldn't be better for CBS, which has seen Letterman eclipse the "Tonight" show shortly after O'Brien took over. The "Late Show" is solidifying the lead partly because of the scandal and guests like President Barack Obama, who brought 7.2 million viewers when he appeared on Sept. 21.

Also appreciating the timing was the pistachio nut industry, which started its first-ever television advertising campaign Monday with commercials on Letterman and the NFL game between the Minnesota Vikings and Green Bay Packers, which was the most-watched event in cable TV history.

"This is gravy for us," said Dominic Engels, vice president for marketing at pistachio maker Paramount Farms.

No advertisers have publicly asked to back out of the "Late Show" since the story broke, and analysts say they don't expect the incident to make a bottom-line difference to the CBS Corp.

"The ratings popped the first night," said David Joyce, analyst for Miller Tabek. "It appears as if it's going to be a non-story."

Letterman even got an endorsement from Martha Stewart, who said his actions aren't at all disturbing unless there was force involved.

"He's a very attractive man," she said. "Very appealing. Great sense of humor, obviously, and I think all this was done while he was still not married. Although it's still probably harmful to his wife ... But, you know, men are men. I've put up with it all."

Letterman's effort to be proactive with the issue in a self-deprecating way is helping him control the story and his image, said Michael Gordon, head of a New York-based crisis public relations firm.

"What he can't control is if there are more revelations," he said. "If just one woman claims harassment, then his ratings will go down along with his career."

Letterman arrived on stage Monday to applause and cheers from his studio audience. After drinking it in, he grinned sheepishly and inquired, with a mock stammer, "Did your, did your weekend just fly by?"

After pausing for the audience's sympathetic laughter, he went on: "I mean, I'll be honest with you folks—right now, I would give anything to be hiking on the Appalachian Trail."

"I got into the car this morning," he added, "and the navigation lady wasn't speaking to me. Ouch."

His performance drew mixed reviews.

Entertainment Weekly's Ken Tucker called it "was such a superb hour of television ... that it reminded us all over again how invaluable he is."

"It is time for those calling for his head to calm down and let the man do his job, the job he does as no one else does, and no one will ever do as well again," Tucker wrote

But editorial page columnist Yael T. Abouhalkah of the Kansas City Star said Letterman's effort to poke fun at a serious situation "made the apologies he issued look rather lame."

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I Can Do Bad All By Myself
Friday 4:15 7:30 9:45
Saturday 1:15 4:15 7:30 9:45
Sunday 1:15 4:15 7:30
Mon thru Thurs 4:15 7:30
Taraji P. Henson, Adam Rodriguez
Comedy, Drama • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
When Madea, a pistol-packing grandma, catches sixteen-year-old Jennifer and her two younger brothers looting her home, she decides to take matters into her own hands and delivers the young delinquents to the only relative they have: their aunt April. A heavy-drinking nightclub singer who lives off of Raymond, her married boyfriend, April wants nothing to do with the kids. But her attitude begins to change when Sandino, a handsome Mexican immigrant looking for work, moves into April's basement room.

Fame
Friday 4:10 7:05 9:35
Saturday 1:05 4:10 7:05 9:35
Sunday 1:05 4:10 7:05
Mon thru Thurs 4:10 7:05
Paul Iacono, Kristy Flores
Drama, Teen, Music • Rated PG
Synopsis
A talented group of dancers, singers, actors, and artists attending New York City High School of Performing Arts are given a chance to live out their dreams and achieve real and lasting fame...the kind that comes only from talent, dedication, and hard work. As each student strives for his or her moment in the spotlight, they'll discover who among them has the innate talent and necessary discipline to succeed. With the love and support of their friends and fellow artists, they'll find out who amongst them will achieve Fame.

Surrogates
Friday 4:05 7:10 9:50
Saturday 1:10 4:05 7:10 9:50
Sunday 1:10 4:05 7:10
Mon thru Thurs 4:05 7:10
Bruce Willis, Radha Mitchell
Thriller, Sci-Fi • Rated PG 13
Synopsis
Set in a futuristic world where humans live in isolation and interact vicariously through surrogate robots. Bruce Willis stars as an FBI agent who enlists the aid of his own surrogate to investigate the murder of the genius college student who invented the surrogates. As the case grows more complicated, however, the withdrawn detective discovers that in order to actually catch the killer he will have to venture outside the safety of his own home for the first time in many years, and enlists the aid of another agent (Radha Mitchell) in tracking his target down.

Pandorum
Friday 4:00 7:00 10:00
Saturday 1:00 4:00 7:00 10:00
Sunday 1:00 4:00 7:00
Mon thru Thurs 4:00 7:00
Dennis Quaid, Ben Foster
Action, Thriller • Rated R

All About Steve
Friday 4:20 7:15 9:55
Saturday 1:25 4:20 7:15 9:55
Sunday 1:25 4:20 7:15
Mon thru Thurs 4:20 7:15
Sandra Bullock, Bradley Cooper
Comedy • Rated PG 13

And I Love You So
Friday 4:25 7:20 9:30
Saturday 1:30 4:25 7:20 9:30
Sunday 1:30 4:25 7:20
Mon thru Thurs 4:25 7:20
Bea Alonzo, Derek Ramsay
Drama, Romance • NR

G.I. JOE
Friday 4:30 7:25 9:40
Saturday 1:20 4:30 7:25 9:40
Sunday 1:20 4:30 7:25
Mon thru Thurs 4:30 7:25
Dennis Quaid, Channing Tatum
War • Rated PG 13

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Elizabeth Taylor tweets about heart procedure

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Elizabeth Taylor says she's headed to the hospital for a heart procedure.

The 77-year-old actress tells her followers on Twitter that she is to undergo a "very new" procedure to improve heart function that "involves repairing my leaky valve using a clip device" rather than open-heart surgery.

"Any prayers you happen to have lying around I would dearly appreciate," Taylor wrote Tuesday, adding that she plans to inform her 157,389 Twitter followers when the procedure is complete. She did not say when or where she is having treatment.

A representative for Taylor did not immediately return an e-mail and a phone call seeking comment.

Twitter may be the most common place to see the violet-eyed Oscar winner, who rarely makes public appearances. She was seen twice last month—at Michael Jackson's private burial and at an AIDS charity event she helped establish decades ago—after months away from the public eye.

But she can be seen often on Twitter, where she has been contributing regularly since March. She has posted her support for gay marriage, her grief over Michael Jackson's death and personal insights such as "Life without earrings is empty."

AP

In this Sept. 24, 2009 file photo, Elizabeth Taylor speaks at the Macy's Passport Fashion Show gala in Santa Monica, Calif.

Taylor also actively supported her friend Kathy Ireland as she competed recently on TV's "Dancing With the Stars."

2 celebrities hang up their 'Dancing' shoes

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Politician Tom DeLay and actress Debi Mazar have turned in their last dance. Both are leaving "Dancing With the Stars."

DeLay withdrew from the ABC dance-off Tuesday after being diagnosed with stress fractures in both feet, while Mazar was eliminated the traditional way: low scores and insufficient fan support.

In this publicity image released by ABC, Tom Delay and Cheryl Burke perform Monday, Sept. 28, 2009, in the dance competition series, "Dancing With The Stars," in Los Angeles.

AP

Each performed the samba on Monday's show. DeLay earned 15 points out of 30 for his performance with partner Cheryl Burke. Mazar and her partner, Maksim Chmerkovskiy, finished with 17.

Viewer votes are combined with judges' scores to determine which contestant is eliminated each week.

Fan votes kept DeLay afloat, but doctors and show producers advised him to quit the competition because of his injuries.

"I want to dance no matter what," the 62-year-old former House Republican Whip said Monday, but he reconsidered on Tuesday.

Mazar said she struggled with the samba and missed a key step during Monday's performance. Judges said the dance lacked sizzle.

"It was neat and precise. But for me, it just didn't ignite," head judge Len Goodman said.

The 45-year-old actress said she "loved every moment" on the show.

"I definitely know a few more steps, and I've had a great time," Mazar said after learning her fate.

Queen Latifah and hip-hop dance group Jabbawockeez also performed on Tuesday's episode.

Mel Gibson's drunk driving conviction expunged

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge has ruled that Mel Gibson's conviction stemming from his notorious 2006 drunken driving arrest is being expunged.

The ruling Tuesday came after his lawyer had requested the dismissal. The actor-director successfully completed the terms of his three-year probation following the misdemeanor drunken driving arrest in which he made derogatory comments about Jews and women.

As part of his no-contest plea, Gibson was sentenced to three years of probation, paid about $1,600 in fines and had to attend Alcoholics Anonymous and other meetings.

Gibson has repeatedly apologized for making the derogatory comments about Jews to the sheriff's deputy who arrested him in 2006 in Malibu, Calif.

In this Sunday, Feb. 17, 2008 file picture, actor Mel Gibson arrives at the Gaiety Theatre for the 5th Annual Irish Film and Television Academy Awards, Dublin, Ireland where he received the Outstanding Contribution to World Cinema Award.

AP

Man held in death of 'Housewives' star's ex-fiance

ATLANTA (AP)—A strip club worker is being held without bond in the death of a "Real Housewives of Atlanta" cast member's ex-fiance.

Ashley "A.J." Jewell died at a hospital after a scuffle at the Atlanta strip club Friday night. He was engaged to Kandi Burruss, the newest member of the Atlanta housewives cast, until August. He appeared in several episodes of the hit reality show, which follows metro Atlanta socialites.

Magistrate Sylvia McCoy has ordered Frederick Richardson held on a voluntary manslaughter charge in Jewell's death.

The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reports that Richardson's attorney, Dennis Scheib, tried to persuade McCoy to dismiss the charges because no cause of death has been determined.

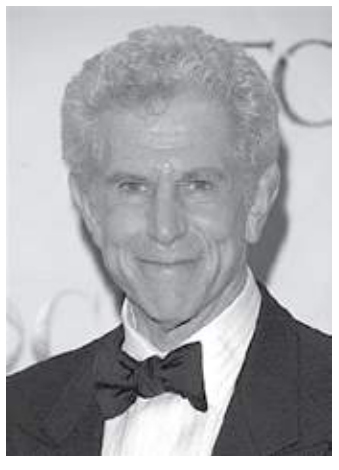
Daughter says Tony Roberts had minor seizure

NEW YORK (AP)—Tony Roberts had a minor seizure during the Sunday matinee of "The Royal Family," but is looking forward to returning to the Broadway revival of the 1927 comedy.

Roberts' daughter Nicole says the 69-year-old actor is "feeling great" and is now taking medication.

He became ill during the preview performance and had to be taken to a hospital. The preview was canceled, but performances resumed that night with understudy Anthony Newfield taking over Roberts' role in the Manhattan Theatre Club production.

The show is still scheduled to open Thursday but it isn't clear when Roberts will return to the production.



In this Sunday, June 15, 2008 photo, actor Tony Roberts arrives at the 62nd Annual Tony Awards in New York.

AP

'Idol Gives Back' coming back to 'American Idol'

LOS ANGELES (AP)—"Idol Gives Back" is back.

Producers of "American Idol" say the show's charity effort will return next year, with "Idol Gives Back" set to air April 21.

The fundraising program will benefit national and international charities, including Malaria No More, Save the Children and the United Nations Foundation, Fox said Tuesday.

"Idol Gives Back" has raised $140 million since its inception in 2007. The star-studded fundraiser has previously included appearances by Brad Pitt, Reese Witherspoon and President Barack Obama. Producers did not announce who will appear on the third "Idol Gives Back" special, which invites viewers to make donations during and after the show.

The "Idol" singing competition series returns for a new round in January.

Mom rations the many gifts her young daughters receive

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby

DEAR ABBY: My sister "Tricia's" daughters, ages 5 and 7, are my only nieces. A few weeks ago, I sent the 7-year-old a gift for her birthday. When I didn't get a response, I called my sister to ask if it had arrived. Tricia said, "Oh, yeah, we got it. We've been busy and so we didn't open it. We'll get to it someday." I felt terrible knowing my niece didn't get the gift on her birthday and didn't know I had remembered her.

I have since learned that my nieces weren't given the gifts I sent last Christmas, either, which explains why I didn't receive thank-you notes. Tricia told me her girls get lots of presents so she limits when they can have them. She gives them as rewards or saves them for rainy days.

The younger daughter's birthday is coming up, and now I'm wondering what to do. I don't want to spend the time or money picking out something she may never see. Should I just send a card? Or call to wish her a happy birthday?

My sister is generous with my kids. They open the gifts right away and send thank-you notes. How do I reciprocate?

HURT IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR HURT: By intercepting your gifts and presenting them as "rewards" or "saving them for a rainy day," your sister is defeating their purpose and may be taking the credit that should be going to you. Your nieces should absolutely know that you think of them on their birthdays and other holidays.

By all means call them and send cards. And start contributing to a college fund for them. Although they may not appreciate right now what a thoughtful gift you are giving them, I guarantee they will in the future.

DEAR ABBY: I have a good relationship with my 84-year-old mother, but it's difficult to spend time with her because during the past year she has started hitting me. She does not appear to be angry when she does it. She'll do it if I say something she thinks is funny, when I do something nice or for no reason at all.

It hurts me physically and emotionally when she hits me. I have asked her repeatedly to please not do it, but she persists. I wasn't abused as a child, so I don't understand what's going on. Any ideas?

BRUISED IN SPRINGFIELD

DEAR BRUISED: I have a suspicion. I have written before that any significant change in a senior's behavior or personality should be reported to his or her doctor. Your mother may need to be physically and neurologically evaluated because it's possible that she doesn't remember that you have asked her not to hit you. My advice is to have your mother checked out, and if I'm right, you have my sympathy.

DEAR ABBY: My daughter is divorced from my grandson "Cody's" father, "Mitch." Cody is only 8, and when Mitch makes plans with him and then doesn't show up or even bother to call, of course Cody is sad.

I can't stand to see my grandson hurt over and over again. How can I help him get through these difficult times?

PROTECTIVE NANA IN RHODE ISLAND

DEAR PROTECTIVE NANA: It isn't possible to shield your grandson entirely from his father's neglect. However, you might lessen his disappointment by making alternative plans to do something with him if his father is a no-show. And if Cody has uncles, a grandfather or other male influences in his life, perhaps they could step up to the plate on some of those occasions when his father strikes out.

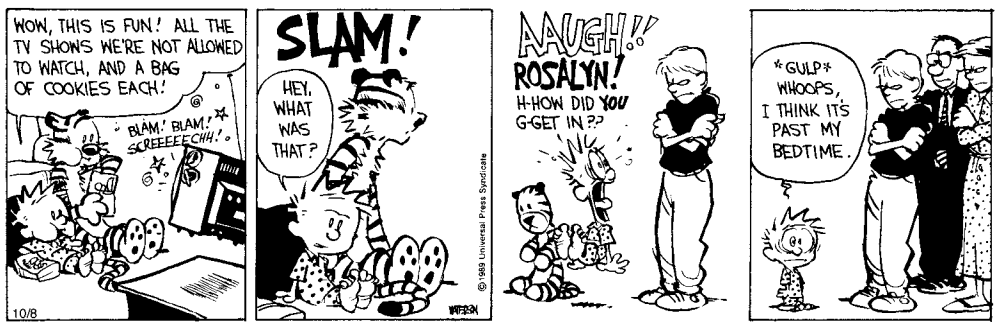
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

What teens need to know about sex, drugs, AIDS and getting along with peers and parents is in "What Every Teen Should Know." To order, send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Teen Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


WOW, THIS IS FUN! ALL THE TV SHOWS WE'RE NOT ALLOWED TO WATCH, AND A BAG OF COOKIES EACH!
BLAM! BLAM! SCREEEEECHH!
10/8
SLAM!
HEY, WHAT WAS THAT?
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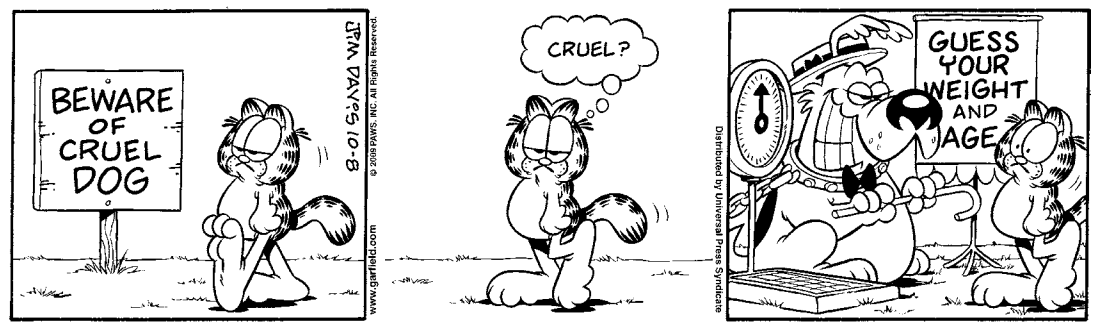
AAUGH!!
ROSALYN! H-HOW DID YOU G-GET IN??
GULP WHOOPS, I THINK IT'S PAST MY BEDTIME.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

PIZZA LAND
WITH LAURA BEING GONE ALL WEEK, IT'S GIVEN THE KIDS AND ME A CHANCE TO REALLY BOND.
SIR, YOUR CHILDREN HAVE HACKED INTO THE SKEEBALL MACHINE.
HOW MANY TICKETS FOR ASPIRIN?
HAPPY BIRTHDAY
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The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

WELCOME TO THE CABLE COMPANY'S AUTOMATED PHONE SYSTEM. AT THE BEEP PLEASE STATE THE REASON FOR YOUR CALL.
© 2009 Universal Uclick
BEEP
ARRGHH!
ONE MOMENT, AND I'LL CONNECT YOU WITH A SERVICE TECHNICIAN.
Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS
1 Head light
5 Send out invitations
8 Lendl or Boesky
12 Warrior of legend
13 Prompt
14 Judicial garb
15 Secular
16 Gorilla
17 Many Louvre pieces
18 Quick mission
20 Jousting weapons
22 Wade opponent
23 Tall tale
24 Bankruptcy cause
27 Jewelry container, maybe
32 Past
33 End for mob or text
34 Sapporo sash
35 Positions for favorable viewing
38 Former mates
39 Total
40 Baltimore newspaper
42 Spur
45 "Survivor" setting, often
49 Laugh-a-minute
50 Smallest prime
52 Chilled
53 Farm fraction
54 Has the wherewithal
55 Antitoxins
56 Requirement
57 Time card abbr.
58 Helen's home

DOWN
1 Robust
2 Open somewhat
3 Den
4 Farm wagon of a sort
5 College life
6 Dine
7 Carina
8 Oddly funny
9 Larynx
10 Competent
11 Capone foe
19 "Just say —"
21 Foreman rival
24 Apply lightly
25 Swelled head
26 Sports-page summary
28 Last (Abbr.)
29 Meetings
30 U.K. award
31 Greek consonants
36 Fit
37 Ambulance worker (Abbr.)
38 Sign up
41 "People" competitor
42 Persia, now
43 Pleasant
44 Engrave, say
46 Maple genus
47 Infamous lyre player
48 Crucial time
51 Series of skirmishes

Solution time: 25 mins.

I	M	A	M	■	A	T	M	■	A	M	E	N
L	O	N	E	■	B	O	A	■	R	A	R	E
L	A	N	D	M	A	R	K	■	G	R	I	T
S	T	A	L	E	■	■	E	V	O	K	E	S
■	■	■	E	L	S	E	■	A	N	D	■	■
J	U	D	Y	■	P	I	P	S	■	O	W	N
A	T	O	■	B	E	G	O	T	■	W	O	E
M	E	W	■	E	C	H	O	■	K	N	O	W
■	■	N	E	E	■	T	H	A	N	■	■	■
T	S	H	I	R	T	■	■	B	O	G	I	E
I	P	O	D	■	H	O	M	E	L	A	N	D
D	A	M	E	■	I	R	E	■	L	I	C	E
E	Y	E	R	■	S	E	X	■	S	T	A	N

Yesterday's answer 10-8

1	2	3	4	■	5	6	7	■	8	9	10	11
12				■	13			■	14			
15				■	16			■	17			
18				19		■	20	21				
■	■	■	22			■	■	23			■	■
24	25	26		■	27	28	29				30	31
32			■	■	33			■	■	34		
35			36	37				■	38			
■	■	39			■	■	40	41		■	■	■
42	43				44	■	45			46	47	48
49				■	50	51		■	52			
53					54				55			
56				■	57			■	58			

STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Nick Cannon, 29; Matt Damon, 39; Sigourney Weaver, 60; Chevy Chase, 66

Happy Birthday: Explore new avenues this year. Set goals that include updating your image, mindset and surroundings. The more progressive you are, the better you will feel about your future and the direction you are heading. Don't procrastinate—focus on here and now. Your numbers are 7, 12, 25, 33, 38, 40, 44

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Your ability to work with others and to form partnerships will be the deciding factor regarding your success in the future. Use your imagination and you will come up with something very unique, user friendly or high tech. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't trust anyone to handle your responsibilities. An affectionate encounter will boost your confidence and create a situation that helps define the changes you want to make personally and professionally. Don't take a risk with your cash or emotions. ✪✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Don't let your emotions stand in the way of your productivity. You have to allow some space between you and someone who has been difficult to get along with. An impulse purchase will not make you feel better or help your financial situation. ✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You must take advantage of an opportunity even if it does frighten you to dive into a new environment or situation. The payback will be worth the little bit of nervous stress you initially feel. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): Just because someone asks for something doesn't mean you have to give it away for free. Put a price tag on what you have to offer and you will gain respect as well as extra cash for your services. A lifestyle change may be in order. ✪✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): You may have everything ready to go according to your plans but don't expect things to run smoothly. Emotions will be running wild and problems with someone you care about will lead to small but costly mistakes if you aren't careful. ✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Getting away will be fun but, if you are going to travel into unknown territory, do your homework first. Changes of staff or an upset in the industry you work for will make you feel stronger about taking on a new task or even your own little enterprise. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Protect your assets. You can build a strong foundation if you are careful how you spend your money. Make the changes at home that will bring the greatest value to your premises or sell off the things that are just collecting dust. ✪✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Don't let your emotions lead you astray. Unexpected changes at home will have to be dealt with immediately. The best out will be sizing down, refinancing or restructuring your current budget. Your responsibilities are mounting. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You need a break. A jaunt of some sort will inspire you and help you make a choice that will benefit you personally, romantically and financially. The changes you have coming up are positive. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): A change must be brought into the equation if you are to stabilize your position and secure your future. There is an opportunity but it will require you to put in some long hours and to learn something new. ✪✪✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll find it difficult to concentrate. Don't let your emotions drag you down or cause you to do or say something that will get you in trouble with the people you love. A partnership that went wrong may need some work. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are creative and caring. You are intent on following a unique path that will bring you the adventure and excitement you crave.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

5		2			8	6		7
		6				5		
	8		3				2	
8				6		9		
		7		2				1
	4				1		5	
		3				2		
6		1	8			7		4

Difficulty Level ★★★ 10/08

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	7	4	1	5	3	6	2	9
6	3	1	2	7	9	4	5	8
9	5	2	4	8	6	1	7	3
2	1	5	6	4	8	9	3	7
3	9	6	7	2	5	8	1	4
4	8	7	9	3	1	5	6	2
5	4	9	3	1	7	2	8	6
7	2	8	5	6	4	3	9	1
1	6	3	8	9	2	7	4	5

Difficulty Level ★ 9/07

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

WOODEN ROCKING CHAIRS **Solution: 8 letters**

C	F	E	E	Y	N	R	D	N	A	R	B	T	T	C
R	I	U	V	M	A	O	C	I	L	E	R	N	L	O
A	N	T	R	R	O	L	I	H	C	R	A	A	U	M
F	I	N	U	N	A	O	P	(T)	(A)	(E)	(S)	F	D	F
T	S	O	C	E	I	C	L	S	O	S	S	N	A	O
E	H	I	E	G	P	T	H	R	I	M	H	I	E	R
D	E	S	I	G	N	A	U	C	I	D	O	S	S	T
E	Y	Y	A	L	A	I	R	R	R	E	R	D	T	L
E	L	K	N	I	T	T	T	E	E	O	H	S	E	E
U	I	D	A	D	N	Y	N	T	H	D	P	G	A	L
Q	N	N	N	E	W	Z	D	I	I	T	S	N	D	G
I	M	A	I	I	R	O	R	L	V	S	T	I	Y	N
T	D	C	D	M	P	C	O	S	N	U	G	R	E	A
N	N	T	E	Z	I	S	L	T	R	O	P	P	U	S
A	H	E	I	G	H	T	L	N	I	A	T	S	U	S

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Adult, Ancient, Angle, Antique, Arch, Brand, Brass, Carve, Classic, Color, Comfort, Cozy, Crafted, Creaky, Curve, Design, Display, Finish, Furniture, Glide, Height, Heirloom, Horse, Infant, Knit, Legs, Mini, Model, Motion, Noisy, Porch, Relic, Roll, Seat, Sitting, Size, Snug, Solid, Spindle, Springs, Steady, Support, Sustain, Therapeutic, Turn, Vintage, Width

Yesterday's Answer: Challenge

SALE: The topics of "Wonderword for Kids" appeal to younger fans but the puzzle difficulty matches what you've come to expect from Wonderword. For a limited time, this book is on sale for just $4 each (U.S. funds only), payable to Universal Press Syndicate. Includes $3 postage for the first book order, $1 each for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, Mo. 64106 or call toll-free, 1-800-642-6480. **Order online at upuzzles.com.**

CLASSIFIED ADS

WHATZIT Solution: Long time no see

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 2-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genset/ 24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/ students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated Bldg. 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Backup generator. Free Wi-Fi. EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

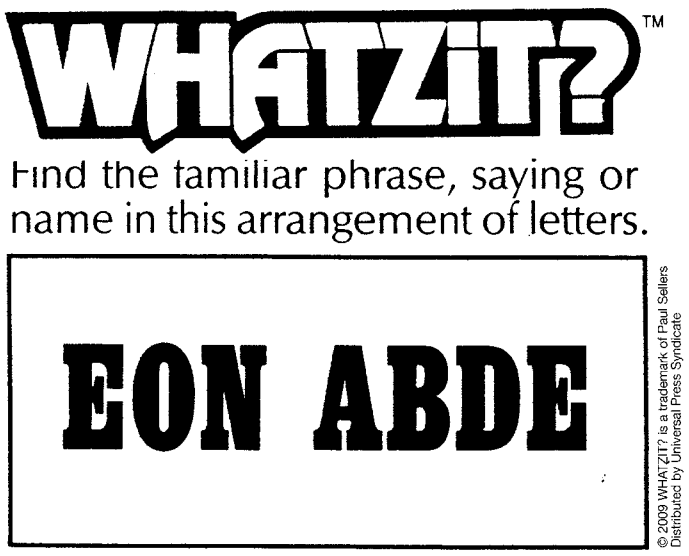
Oceanview & Sunsetview Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/ A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nightime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

AUTOMOTIVE

Truck for Sale-98 Toyota Tacoma $3000. Excellent working condition/ some rust. Call Kathleen 322-2891

FOR SALE

Store chiller, shelves and other store supplies. Please call 483-8295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Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.
EON ABDE
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CUC emergency extended anew
'CUC unlikely to meet EPA deadlines'
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Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 7-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as $25 per 3 liner ad for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of below packages that fits your budget.

ADS (7DAYS)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	**$25**
• 5-Liner	**$35**
• 3-Liner with picture	**$45**
• 5-Liner with picture	**$55**

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Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:
- *Saipan Tribune:* All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the *Saipan Tribune* are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Twins complete comeback, beat Tigers in 12th

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—The Metrodome erupted in a jet-like roar as Carlos Gomez zoomed home with the winning run to finish off an AL Central race—and a thrilling tiebreaker—that didn't want to end.

Minnesota wouldn't quit, while the Detroit Tigers finished their historic fade. And there was little time for the Twins to celebrate, because the New York Yankees were waiting.

Alexi Casilla singled home the winning run with one out in the 12th inning and the Twins rallied for a 6-5 victory Tuesday night, completing a colossal collapse for the Tigers.

"This is the most unbelievable game I've ever played or seen," Twins shortstop Orlando Cabrera said.

How was that for bonus baseball?

As Gomez scored from second—well ahead of a late throw from right field—Homer Hankies spiraled. The Twins celebrated and scrambled: They had 21 hours to get ready for Game 1 of the AL playoffs at Yankee Stadium against New York ace CC Sabathia. He'll face rookie Brian Duensing.

The Tigers will head home instead. They became the first team in history to blow a three-game lead with four games left.

"I guess it's fitting to say there was a loser in this game because we lost the game, but it's hard for me to believe there was a loser in this game," Tigers manager Jim Leyland said. "Both teams played their hearts out. You can't ask for anything more than that."

The Twins overcame a seven-game gap in the final month, went 17-4 to pull even on the final weekend and won their fifth division title in eight years.

"We just feel like we have nothing to lose, man," outfielder Denard Span said.

Both teams had chance after chance to end it earlier, and each club scored in the 10th. Casilla was thrown out at the plate to end that inning by left fielder Ryan Raburn after tagging up.

The Tigers thought they'd taken the lead in the 12th. But with the bases loaded, plate umpire Randy Marsh ruled that Brandon Inge was not hit by a pitch by Bobby Keppel. The replay appeared to show the pitch grazing Inge's billowing uniform.

AP

Minnesota Twins' Carlos Gomez (22) scores the game-winning run as his teammates follow during the 12th inning of a baseball game against the Detroit Tigers on Tuesday, Oct. 6, 2009, in Minneapolis.

"I did not have the ball hitting him. We looked at replays, too, and the replays we've looked at, to be honest with you, were inconclusive," said Marsh, the crew chief.

Said Inge: "No matter what we did, it seems like it wasn't meant to be. This is the best game, by far, that I've ever played in no matter the outcome."

It was the first AL tiebreaker to go to extra innings, making up for Minnesota's disappointment last year when it lost 1-0 in Chicago to the White Sox in an AL Central tiebreaker. Had the Twins lost, it would've been the final baseball game at the Metrodome. Instead, the Twins get the Yankees—New York was 7-0 against Minnesota this season.

"We're not afraid. I can guarantee you that," Twins manager Ron Gardenhire said.

Said Yankees manager Joe Girardi: "We're not going to have to face questions like 'Can you beat them?' like we've had to answer during the course of the year. Once the playoffs start though, it's a new series and we know the importance of each game. You can pretty much throw everything else out the window."

A day after Brett Favre and the Minnesota Vikings beat the Green Bay Packers at the Dome—"Monday Night Football" is what delayed this tiebreaker for a day—the Twins pulled off a Tuesday Night Frenzy.

Gardenhire and Leyland made so many moves for defense and relief that the lineups and pitching staffs were depleted by the end.

Tigers reliever Fernando Rodney (2-5) worked his longest appearance of the season, getting the last two outs of the ninth. But he didn't have enough to get out of the 12th. The Twins rushed out of the dugout in celebration even before Gomez reached the plate, and their comeback from a seven-game gap with 20 to play was complete.

Joe Mauer, who heard thunderous "M-V-P!" chants from the largest regular-season baseball crowd in Metrodome history throughout the game, led his team on a sprint around the warning track as they slapped hands with fans in the first rows.

"One of the best games I'll ever play in," Mauer said.

Keppel, Minnesota's eighth pitcher, loaded the bases with one out in the 12th. After the non-call on Inge, second baseman Nick Punto then scooped Inge's grounder and fired home in time to get the runner on the force. Then Keppel struck out Gerald Laird to squelch that rally.

Twins closer Joe Nathan found trouble in the ninth when consecutive singles put runners at the corners, but he got a strikeout and a line-drive double play to end that threat. The four-time All-Star gave two huge pumps of his right arm as he spun to thank his defense and run to the dugout, preserving the tie.

Inge's two-out double in the 10th gave the Tigers a 5-4 lead, but Michael Cuddyer sliced a triple past Raburn in left and scored on Matt Tolbert's bouncing single through the middle in the bottom of the inning.

On the potential winning sacrifice fly, though, Casilla strayed a bit too far from third and was thrown out by Raburn trying to score to end the inning. The split-second Casilla needed to retouch the base might have cost him the run.

He more than made up for that mistake later.

According to sports researcher STATS LLC, only three teams since 1901 have blown a three-game lead in the standings with four games left. The Houston Astros lost three straight games to Los Angeles in 1980, but they recovered to defeat the Dodgers in a tiebreaker game for the NL West. Milwaukee lost three in a row to Baltimore in 1982 to force a tie, but beat the Orioles in the final regular season game to win the AL East.

After splitting four in Detroit last week—a loss in the series finale Thursday would've given the division to the Tigers—the Twins came home for the final scheduled series in the bubble needing a sweep of the Kansas City Royals and did just that.

So with 54,088 fans in attendance, the place was erupting with noise and excitement. The chants for Mauer, who wrapped up his third batting title, were deafening. Leyland even told his players before the game to think of the loudest experience of their life and multiply it by four to anticipate the decibel level for this game. Dome ball came in handy again, on a day when the city was drenched by cold rain.

Rookie starter Rick Porcello pitched well beyond his 20 years for the Tigers, and Miguel Cabrera made up for a miserable weekend—on and off the field—with a two-run homer against Scott Baker in the third inning that made it 3-0. The crowd chanted "al-co-ho-lic" right before Cabrera went deep, a rude reference to the first baseman's fight with his wife after he came home late and drunk.

The Twins crept back, though, and Orlando Cabrera's two-run homer in the seventh gave them a brief lead that Magglio Ordonez ended with his lead-off homer in the eighth.

"We were dead and buried a couple times, and our team just kept coming back," Twins general manager Bill Smith said.

Miguel Cabrera tells Tigers he's sorry for being drunk

MINNEAPOLIS (AP)—Detroit star Miguel Cabrera apologized to his teammates for being drunk last weekend while the Tigers were trying to clinch the AL Central title, then delivered two big hits in Tuesday night's tiebreaker loss to Minnesota.

The slumping Cabrera had a double his first time up, then hit a two-run homer that put the Tigers ahead 3-0 in the third inning.

But it wasn't quite enough. He had two groundouts and a walk the rest of the way and was thrown out at home plate by Twins second baseman Nick Punto in the 12th inning of Detroit's 6-5 loss that gave Minnesota the division championship.

"He made a great play," Cabrera said. "If he doesn't make a good throw, I'm safe, no problem. I don't know what to say right now."

Before batting practice, Cabrera told reporters he was sorry for his actions and the stress he caused the organization. He insisted the alcohol consumption—between two games the Tigers lost—didn't negatively affect his performance.

"No, no, no. I was good. I was focused," Cabrera said.

Cabrera went 0 for 4 and stranded six runners in a 5-1 loss to Chicago on Saturday, a game that started about 12 hours after Tigers general manager Dave Dombrowski picked him up at a police station following a fight with his wife—apparently over his late arrival from a night out.

Police said Cabrera's wife, Rosangel, called 911. Both of them had marks on their faces when officers arrived, but they were minor and no charges were filed. The 26-year-old Cabrera registered a 0.26 blood alcohol content, three times above Michigan's legal driving limit.

Cabrera, who hit .324 with 34 home runs and 103 RBIs this year, is in the second season of an eight-year, $152.3 million contract. He went 0 for 11 over the weekend while the Tigers lost two out of three games to the White Sox—and was hitless in his last 14 at-bats overall—and let the Twins catch them in the standings.

"I want to focus on the game right now," Cabrera said, sitting solemnly in front his cubicle in the visitor's locker room at the Metrodome on Tuesday afternoon. There was a bruise and a scratch still visible on his face, but they were faded.

Cabrera said he learned a lesson from the situation and insisted he was able to fully focus on baseball and not this off-the-field problem.

"This is a big game," Cabrera said. "Hopefully we play good."

AP

In this Sunday, Oct. 4, 2009, photo, Detroit Tigers' Miguel Cabrera is seen during a baseball game against the Chicago White Sox in Detroit.

Favre: Arm feels great as 40 approaches

EDEN PRAIRIE, Minn. (AP)—The big 4-0 is right around the corner for Brett Favre. You'd never know it.

The Minnesota Vikings quarterback played his last game of his 30s Monday night against the Green Bay Packers and showed everyone that his surgically repaired right arm has new life.

"My arm feels great," said Favre, who threw for 271 yards and three TDs to beat his old team. "It didn't feel very good last year. I'm not going to make excuses.

"But my arm feels a lot better and I think it's showing."

That's for sure. After his first four games in purple, Favre has completed 68 percent of his passes for 837 yards, eight touchdowns and just one interception to lead the Vikings to a 4-0 start.

It's a far cry from how he ended his only season in New York. Favre suffered a partially torn biceps in his throwing arm last season. He threw nine interceptions and only two touchdowns as the Jets lost four of five down the stretch and missed the playoffs.

Dr. James Andrews performed surgery on his biceps in May, cutting the partially torn tendon to alleviate the pain that caused Favre, whose birthday is Saturday, to (temporarily) retire for a second consecutive season last spring.

It's a procedure that's growing in popularity and allowing older athletes to extend their careers, according to Dr. Anthony Romeo, section head of shoulder and elbow surgery at Rush University Medical Center in Chicago.

"Not only do they do well," Romeo said, "but they get better faster."

That certainly seems to be the case with Favre, who had two options this summer. First, he could have had Andrews repair the torn tendon, which calls for a much longer recovery time.

"If they did that for Brett Favre, he would not be playing this year," Romeo said.

Instead, Andrews cut the tendon to relieve the pain. The recovery time is much shorter with that option, which paved the way for Favre to go through about six weeks of rehabilitation and join the Vikings in mid-August.

"That's a pretty significant, painful injury," Vikings coach Brad Childress said. "He couldn't have come here if he wouldn't have had the surgery. He knows that."

The biceps tendon may look impressive on a body builder, but Romeo said it doesn't factor much into the throwing of a football. "That tendon is relatively unimportant," he said. "The key to his result is, he got rid of his pain."

Broncos quarterback John Elway went through a similar injury and was able to play two more years after his biceps ruptured, winning two Super Bowls. Without the pain, Favre is enjoying a career renaissance in Minnesota few athletes his age even dream about.

That was never more evident than on Monday night, with millions of eyes on the first game between Favre and his once-beloved Green Bay, where he spent 16 seasons. He completed 20 of 24 throws for 242 yards and three touchdowns in the first three quarters to get out to a big lead, and the Vikings held on for an important division win.

It wasn't just the numbers for Favre, it was the way he racked them up.

During the first two games of the season against overmatched opponents in Cleveland and Detroit, the Vikings played it conservative with short passes and handoffs to Adrian Peterson.

Signs of the young Favre first resurfaced in the closing moments against the 49ers two weeks ago, when he drove the Vikings 80 yards in 1:29 without a timeout, culminating in a 32-yard TD pass to Greg Lewis for the game winner.

He was even better against the Packers, tormenting the team that decided to move on with the younger Aaron Rodgers after Favre reneged on his first retirement announcement in 2008.

Utilizing the best pass protection he's had all season, Favre went down the field early and often. Five of his 24 completions gained 24 yards or more.

There was pump faking, throwing across his body, rolling right and throwing left, zipping the ball into tight coverage and throwing it over the top of the defense.

"He's still got it," receiver Sidney Rice said. "I don't care how old he is."

To Dr. Ty Endean, a solo practitioner who performs the surgery at Sports Institute of Tucson, Ariz., Favre's performance at his age is even more impressive than his recovery from the operation. "Guys come back from much bigger surgeries," he said.

Favre said the most telling sign that his arm is fully back came on an incompletion. Favre used that familiar windup and put everything he had on a pass to Bernard Berrian with two Packers defensive backs converging on the play. The ball squeezed through the smallest of windows and hit Berrian right in the hands.

"That is a throw I wouldn't have even come close to completing last year," he said.

Romeo and Childress think the best is yet to come. Favre reported to the Vikings less than a month before the season opener, so he is still working his arm, and the rest of his body, back into playing shape.

"Brett Favre's probably going to get stronger and stronger as the season goes on," Romeo said. "The chances for this deteriorating are far less."

AP
Minnesota Vikings quarterback Brett Favre reacts after Adrian Peterson rushed for a touchdown against the Green Bay Packers during the first half of an NFL football game Monday, Oct. 5, 2009, in Minneapolis.

LeBron, Shaq make preseason debut

CLEVELAND (AP)—The LeBron and Shaq Show is off and running.

NBA icons, All-Stars and A-plus-list celebrities LeBron James and Shaquille O'Neal made their debut as Cleveland teammates on Tuesday night in the Cavaliers' 92-87 preseason-opening victory over the Charlotte Bobcats.

The two are hoping to end this city's pro sports championship drought stretching to 1964, and while they are as much as nine months away from accomplishing that goal, it's already clear their pairing will be fun to watch.

James, wearing a pink pair of his signature Nikes for breast cancer awareness month, scored 15 points on 5-of-7 shooting in 14 minutes. O'Neal, who said his goal is to "win a ring for the King" in Cleveland, scored six points and added three rebounds and a block in 15 minutes. Neither played in the second half.

D.J. Augustin, whose third-year option was exercised before the game, scored 12 for the Bobcats. Charlotte was without injured starters Tyson Chandler (ankle surgery) and Boris Diaw (ankle sprain). Bobcats coach Larry Brown was called for a technical foul by official Ben Taylor, one of three replacement referees being used while the regular refs are locked out. Brown spent most of the night chirping at the refs.

Everything James and O'Neal do together will get added attention this season, and it won't be limited to their on-court moves. The Cavaliers' pregame introductions, which already ranked among the league's splashiest before Shaq's arrival, could rival Broadway productions.

The Cavs didn't provide any sneak preview, as James and O'Neal simply slapped hands and saluted each other when they were introduced.

While the James-O'Neal pairing seems ideal, some are wondering if their personalities will mesh and if the arranged marriage will work.

"I don't see why not," Brown said. "LeBron's gotten better every second he's been in the league. To get a quality player like Shaq, who's been special his whole career, without giving up anything, it's phenomenal."

Cavaliers guard Delonte West, battling mental sickness and legal troubles, had been expected to play 15 to 20 minutes but didn't leave Cleveland's locker room. He warmed up 90 minutes before tip-off and sat in his cubicle before the game, but never joined his teammates on the bench.

West, who has bipolar disorder, was arrested last month on weapons charges in Maryland after police found him carrying three loaded guns while riding a three-wheel motorcycle. He faces a likely league suspension pending the resolution of his criminal case. West didn't show up for team's first four practices of training camp last week, absences the team termed unexcused.

The Cavs have been taking a one-day-at-a-time approach with West, who has been their second-best player in the past two postseasons. For now, the team is content to give West space and time.

O'Neal has missed more than 5,000 free throws during his career, a flaw that led to the birth of Hack-A-Shaq, a late-game strategy teams have used against the big man for years.

O'Neal scored the game's first point from the line, drawing a huge ovation from Cavs fans hoping its an omen of made free throws to come.

Redskins hire consultant to help Zorn on offense

WASHINGTON (AP)—Their offense languishing, unable to make much headway even against the NFL's worst defenses, the Washington Redskins called in some help Tuesday for coach Jim Zorn.

They also made sure to point out, at least publicly, that they don't consider the new employee to be Zorn's replacement-in-waiting.

The Redskins hired longtime NFL assistant Sherman Lewis as an offensive consultant, offering a "fresh set of eyes" to a team that ranks 27th in the league in scoring.

Lewis has coached for 22 years in the NFL and once was a candidate for head coaching jobs, but the Redskins attempted quickly to quell speculation that he was brought in as a handy replacement for Zorn if the team continues to struggle. In the posting on the team Web site announcing the move, executive vice president for football operations Vinny Cerrato was quoted as saying, "it's not a threat at all" to Zorn's job security.

"Nothing changes," Cerrato said in a conference call with reporters. "Jim's still calling plays. Everybody's still doing what they're doing. It's just another fresh set of eyes."

The Redskins (2-2) have yet to score 30 points in a game since Zorn was hired last year. The team's only first-half touchdown this year has come on a fake field goal. In the last three weeks, Washington has scored 9, 14 and 16 points, respectively, against the Rams, Lions and Buccaneers, three teams with one win among them.

With such results, Cerrato said he approached Zorn on Monday about hiring an offensive consultant. Cerrato said Zorn approved of the idea.

"He said if it was the right guy, it would be great," Cerrato said.

Lewis was deemed to be the right guy. The 67-year-old coach, who announced his retirement after working on the Detroit Lions staff during the 2004 season, will make his Redskins Park debut on Wednesday, when the team holds its first practice in preparation for Sunday's game against the Carolina Panthers.

Cerrato said it has not been determined what Lewis' role will be.

"They'll get that figured out here in the next day," Cerrato said.

Lewis has extensive experience in the West Coast system run by Zorn. Both have worked for Mike Holmgren, who ran the offense in Green Bay and Seattle. Lewis is best known for his stint as Green Bay's offensive coordinator from 1992-99, including the Packers' Super Bowl championship season of 1996.

"It's a good resource for Jim because they've got so much background together with Mike Holmgren," Cerrato said. "They talk the same language from Day 1."

After leaving Green Bay, Lewis served as the offensive coordinator in Minnesota and then Detroit. He began his NFL coaching career in San Francisco, where he worked as a running backs coach and later receivers coach for 49ers teams that won three Super Bowls in the 1980s.

"The Redskins contacted me and told me they wanted a fresh set of eyes," Lewis said in a statement released by the team. "And I intend to provide just that."

Cerrato used the phrase "fresh set of eyes" on numerous occasions during the 10-minute conference call, usually to dispute the assertion that the hiring of Lewis is a vote of no confidence in Zorn.

Pacquiao training enters punishing phase

BAGUIO CITY, Philippines—Tatooed across the length of the underside of Alex Ariza's right forearm is a Latin inscription that, when translated, reads: Action is the true measure of intelligence.

And, as far as the strength and conditioning coach of Manny Pacquiao is concerned, action steps up a notch higher today as the ring superstar enters the critical six-week period of his preparation for his fight against reigning WBO welterweight champion Miguel Cotto.

"We're going to try to make sure that Manny brings his power with him and we build on his strength as he bulks up without necessarily negating his speed," said Ariza.

It's going to be a punishing last six weeks for the reigning pound-for-pound champion who braved the gusty winds, pounding rain and perilous driving conditions to make a tiring road trip and distribute relief goods to victims of Tropical Storm "Ondoy" in Manila on his rest day.

The Pacquiao convoy left here at 6 p.m. Saturday despite reports of landslides, road erosions and flooding along the route out of this vacation haven. He was scheduled to be back here last night.

"More rounds of sparring and lots of hard work," American trainer Freddie Roach told reporters yesterday, when asked what's in store for the reigning light welterweight champion.

Pacquiao faces the naturally bigger and stronger Cotto on Nov. 14 in Las Vegas in a championship match pegged at a catch weight of 145 pounds.

"We really don't start boxing until the last six weeks of the fight," Roach had earlier said.

Pacquiao

Officially, that six-week period started Saturday, when Ariza implemented personally developed isometric exercises that Pacquiao will go through three times a week until two weeks before the fight.

"We're going to be doing this during sparring days and we're going to stop 14 days before fight night," Ariza said.

While Roach has been drilling Pacquiao on strategy—how to fight a smart battle against the plodding and body-hunting Cotto—Ariza will try to even things up between the two combatants in the size and strength department.

"The goal is to create functional muscles," said Ariza. "The problem with bulking up is that if you do it the wrong way, you could end up flat and sluggish. And that's what I'm making sure won't happen."

Pacquiao is also expected to have a new sparring partner this week in former lightweight champion Jose Luis Castillo—who fought an engaging trilogy with the late Diego Corrales.

Slated to arrive Tuesday, Castillo will join American Shawn Porter and Mexican Urbano Atillano in providing the Pacman with Cotto simulation in the ring. ***(Philippine Daily Inquirer)***

NMASA meeting tonight

Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association will be holding its monthly meeting tonight at 7pm at the conference room of the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Updates about the 2009 Pacific Mini Games and status of the proposed changes on eligibility rules will be discussed at the meeting.

The CNMI sent two athletes to the Mini Games with Tinian's Joshua Manglona joining the triathlon event and Jess Wabol competing in golf.

During a break in the competition, the Pacific Games Council held a General Assembly to decide on the host of the 2015 Pacific Games. Papua New Guinea eventually won the hosting rights, beating Tonga in a close vote.

PGC also met to discuss proposed changes on eligibility rules, including the grandfathering system, which would allow athletes who had played in the past PGC-sanctioned meet to compete in the 2011 Pacific Games in New Caledonia.

Meanwhile, NMASA is reminding all federations to get ready with brief updates on their preparations for the 7th Micronesian Games, which Palau will be hosting next year. ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

JOSHUA

From Page 28

"I wasn't afraid of the water in Rarotonga, and I didn't think the tsunami would hit us in Rarotonga after Samoa. However, I was near a beach when the tsunami effect was felt in Rarotonga," the Tinian triathlete added.

"I saw the local harbor's water when it retreated. I could see the fish flapping on the seabed. I could see corals. There were some boats that didn't make it out to the sea, and they were laying tilted on their side. The water eventually came back, overflowed onto the dock, went back out, then became normal again. I knew and felt that I had to be prepared and plan how to get out of harm's way," Manglona said..

Water, please

The bike and run legs made Manglona appreciate more the volunteers for aid stations in triathlon events.

"The bike course was just like the ones I've done (Olympic distance). Saipan's XTERRA was a harder bike course, because it was in the jungle. Tagaman was 36 miles longer than this Olympic-distance course," said Manglona, who finished the 40-km bike race in 1:24:10.

"What made this bike course really hard was that there were no aid stations along the bike route. I had one water bottle, and I had to plan how to consume what little water I had. Of the four laps we had to do, I planned to drink water on the first and third laps. The plan worked good enough for me to finish the bike course," he said.

In the 10-km run leg, Manglona timed in at 55:01.

"The run part was fine. Actually, it was a relief. There was just one aid station and sponges, all at the finish line. I was so relieved, because there was water," Manglona said.

"Despite having no aid stations, making the race more difficult, I didn't complain. I kept pushing forward. I joked about it afterwards saying I almost died because there were no aid stations. Now, I am more thankful to volunteers in triathlon events, for putting their time and energy into manning aid stations," he added.

Right on target

Manglona completed the triathlon event in 2:54:36, which was right on his target.

"I am satisfied with the performance. I set a goal to go under three hours and I beat my own personal time. This tells me that I'm getting better, faster," Manglona said.

The Tinian triathlete said this achievement would not be possible without the people who supported him all the way.

"I would like to thank Michael White for a job well done as our chef de mission, and for taking care of me and Jess Wabol well. I'd like to thank Jess Wabol for supporting me during my event, and for being a good team player. I'd like to thank all my supporters, such as the NMI triathlon federation and NMASA, and those who believe in me and for giving me an opportunity of a lifetime. To my parents, thank you for being my biggest fans and for your prayers and avalanche of love. I hope I put on a good show," he said.

ROTA

From Page 28

Through the cooperation of NMC-Rota program site coordinator Martin T. Mendiola and other participants, Rota basketball had a kick off of its program at the grassroots and administrative levels," White said.

White said the coaching course focused on the role of the coach, structure of better practices, basic teaching of player individual skills, building "team" concept, and organizing and playing mini-basketball. The refereeing course discussed the current and new rules, qualities of being a good referee, and other refereeing guidelines when making calls during a game.

The administrative course tackled duties and responsibilities of score table officials, how to build relationships with contributors, and getting supportive parents and educators involved.

At the end of the course, FIBA Oceania, through BANMI donated 20 size 5 and size 6 rubber basketballs, an official Molten GL7 men's competition basketball, and an official Molten GL6 women's competition basketball.

Each participant also received a goodie bag courtesy of the Marianas Visitors Authority. The bag contained IT&E T-shirts designed for the clinic and other items IT&E, Joeten Enterprises, Tan Holdings, and Shell Marianas donated.

"We will be able to use these balls in upcoming events, such as the one we're having later this month. These donations and the clinic will surely benefit our youth," Calvo said.

The DCCA Rota resident director said they scheduled basketball and volleyball tournaments for Oct. 20 at Songsong District 1.

"The basketball tournament is open to male and female players in the 9 to 12 age group, while the volleyball event is only for girls in the 14 to 18 age bracket.

The two tournaments, according to Calvo, is made possible through the efforts of the office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention and a subgrant from the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

Calvo added the tournaments are supported by Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos.

MIEKO

From Page 28

their skills. Carey, who served as a masters coach for the Renaissance Sports Club in Tokyo, Japan for five years, will also teach participants techniques for ocean swim.

Carey hopes that by the end of the clinic, participants will have more confidence in the water, faster in swim races, and enjoy swimming more.

The Saipan triathlete is reminding interested participants that they have until tomorrow to register.

Carey also thanked Palms Resort for allowing her to use its swimming facility.

The 31-year-old Carey is holding only a one-day clinic, as she will be leaving for Hawaii on Oct. 22. She will be the lone CNMI bet in the women's pro division of XTERRA World. Her husband, Kevin, will also join the race as an amateur.

In Maui, Carey will be reunited with XTERRA Saipan Championship participants Renate Bucher of Switzerland and Julie Dibens of United Kingdom. Bucher won this year's XTERRA Saipan for her fifth straight crown, while Dibens settled for second after sustaining broken ribs during the bike portion of the race. Carey finished fourth behind third placer Shonny Vanlandingham, who will also compete in XTERRA World.

Carey will be on her fourth XTERRA World trip, but will be joining the event as a pro for the first time. Last year, she finished third in the 30 to 34 age group after negotiating the race in three hours, 53 minutes, and 38 seconds.

"This year, I hope to pass my 2008 time and finish the race with a smile. Hopefully, there will be no crashes, too," added Carey, who had a bike crash in the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

SAINTS

From Page 28

ratic play, the Runnin' Rebels also had problems with manpower, as they had only six players available for the game. The Runnin' Rebels played with only five players in the first half before Lia Rangamar joined the team in the second half.

In contrast, the Saints came in full force with their coach, L.J. Reyes, in tow. Two weeks ago, the Saints forfeited their game against the Rollers I due to Reyes' absence. Rotary caging rules do not allow a team to play without a coach or an adult representative.

With Reyes back and calling the shots for the Saints, the team got off to a strong start, leading by as much as 11 in the first half, 23-12, before Kiyoshi and company recovered and cut the lead to six at the break, 22-28.

However, the Runnin' Rebels failed to keep their momentum in the second half, faltering in their bid to start a winning streak.

Luizi Reyes top-scored for the Saints with 23 points, while eight of his teammates contributed at least three points each.

Kiyoshi paced the Runnin' Rebels with 12, while Eli Aughenbaugh and Dino Palacios chipped in eight each.

CK Saints 69 – L. Reyes 23, D. Reyes 8, Tudela 8, Torres 6, Namelo 5, Iglesias 3, Galarse 3, Aulerio 3, Lizama 3, Deleon Guerrero 2, Tenorio 1.

Runnin' Rebels 39 – Kiyoshi 12, Aughenbaugh 8, Palacios 8, Ichihara 7, Nogis 4

Scoring by halves: 28-22, 69-39.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
y-New York	103	59	.636	–
z-Boston	95	67	.586	8
Tampa Bay	84	78	.519	19
Toronto	75	87	.463	28
Baltimore	64	98	.395	39

Central Division

y-Minnesota	87	76	.534	
Detroit	86	77	.528	1
Chicago	79	83	.488	7
Cleveland	65	97	.401	21
Kansas City	65	97	.401	21

West Division

y-Los Angeles	97	65	.599	–
Texas	87	75	.537	10
Seattle	85	77	.525	12
Oakland	75	87	.463	22

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

y-Philadelphia	93	69	.574	–
Florida	87	75	.537	6
Atlanta	86	76	.531	7
New York	70	92	.432	23
Washington	59	103	.364	34

Central Division

y-St. Louis	91	71	.562	–
Chicago	83	78	.516	7 1/2
Milwaukee	80	82	.494	11
Cincinnati	78	84	.481	13
Houston	74	88	.457	17
Pittsburgh	62	99	.385	28 1/2

West Division

y-Los Angeles	95	67	.586	–
z-Colorado	92	70	.568	3
San Francisco	88	74	.543	7
San Diego	75	87	.463	20
Arizona	70	92	.432	25

y-division champions
z-clinched playoff spot

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

LOCAL SCORES

ROTARY STANDINGS

G-Stars	4	0
Sonics	5	1
Sixers	5	1
Sparks	4	2
Runnin' Rebels	4	3
670 Rollers 2	3	2
CK Saints	3	2
Rollers 1	3	3
Ol'Aces	2	4
Hi-5	0	4
Young 670 Rollers 3	0	5
Celtics	0	5

IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament

PHOTOS BY ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Far left, Aries Cordero stretches to return a shot, while teammate Cheng Saturno looks on in their mixed doubles match against Roger Vales and Malou Malasarte.

Left, Joey Algenio serves, while Riza Yutuc looks on during their mixed doubles C match against Elna Curate and Rodwealth Espana.

Rob Harrell in action during a mixed doubles C match.

Northern Marianas Badminton Federation president Shirley Kim lets go a wide shot.

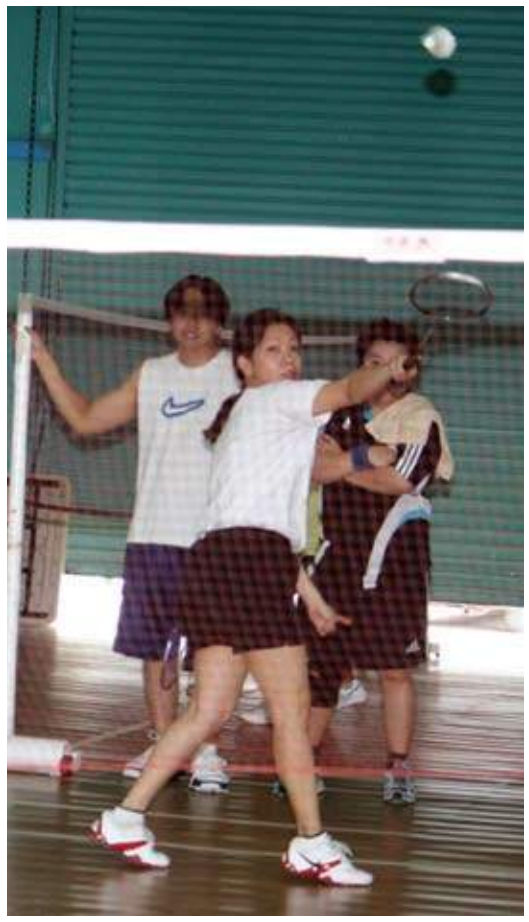
Merlie Tolentino has her eyes on the shuttlecock, while teammate Macoi Aguda backs her up.

Daniel Macario hits a low ball during a men's A singles match against Hapi Gabriel in the IT&E Singles and Mixed Doubles Badminton Tournament at the REM Centre.

Malou Malasarte hits a volley.

Players enjoy a light moment while waiting for their games.

Malou Mendoza hits a backhand.



Players watch Annette Quiambao hits the shuttlecock from the backline.

Pacquiao training enters punishing phase

Tatooed across the length of the underside of Alex Ariza's right forearm is a Latin inscription that, when translated, reads: Action is the true measure of intelligence.

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Saipan Tribune
Sports

Twins complete comeback, beat Tigers 6-5 in 12th

The Metrodome erupted in a jet-like roar as Carlos Gomez zoomed home with the winning run to finish off an AL Central race—and a thrilling tiebreaker—that didn't want to end.

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Joshua shares Mini Games experience

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Joshua Manglona is back on Tinian after the "great experience" he had in the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands last month.

"It was a great experience. I saw and met representatives of different countries. Except from Guam athletes, every person I met did not know where the CNMI was or had never met someone from the CNMI. The people I met now know where the CNMI is located. I made a lot of good friends, especially from Nuie, Vanuatu, American Samoa, Cook Islands, and Tonga," said Manglona, who returned to the CNMI on Monday after competing in the triathlon event.

"The opening ceremony was magical. It was treated like the Olympic Games with the lighting of the torch and the parade of nations," added Manglona, who carried the CNMI flag during the parade and joined golfer Jess Wabol and CNMI chef de mission Michael A. White in the festivities at the opening ceremony.

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Triathlete Joshua Manglona waves the CNMI flag during the opening ceremony for the 2009 Pacific Mini Games in Rarotonga, Cook Islands last month.

As for the triathlon event, Manglona experienced the kind of competition which he believes made her a better and faster triathlete.

Swimming blind in cold water

Though Manglona admitted that though the swim leg was the easiest among the three events, he still had problems completing the 1.5-kilometer race.

"The water in Rarotonga was cold. During the event, the swim was good, but I got penalized about 13 seconds for not going around a buoy. I couldn't see it, my googles were fogged up and I was swimming blind through the entire swim. I had a very small but clear vision on the right goggle lens, but that was it," said Manglona, who timed in at 34:06 in the swim leg.

The swim leg came a day after a tsunami hit Samoa, which is northwest of Rarotonga and Manglona prayed that the same tragedy would not strike the Mini Games host country.

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Saints slip past Runnin' Rebels

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Chalan Kanoa Saints engaged the Runnin' Rebels in a track meet and won by a mile, following a 69-39 triumph in their game in the 2009 Saipan Rotary Club Youth Basketball on Tuesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

The victory was the Saints' third in five games, while the loss was the Runnin' Rebels' third in seven matches.

The Runnin' Rebels entered Tuesday's game hoping to book back-to-back wins, following a 72-33 rout of Hi-Five last week. However, they were outgunned and outran by the Saints in the second half.

Luizi Reyes and Zach Tudela led the Saints breakaway in the second half, escaping with fastbreak layups off the Runnin' Rebels errors.

The second half started with the Saints ahead by only six, 28-22, but they began pulling away in the opening minutes of that period to cruise to a 30-point win.

The Runnin' Rebels also tried to step on the pedal in the second half, but most of the time they were too fast for their own good and committed several careless turnovers.

The Saints converted these errors to points with Luizi Reyes getting away with easy layups and Dominic Reyes and Tudela also nailing uncontested baskets.

Midway in the second half, the Saints were way ahead, 53-30, and there was no way the Runnin' Rebels could sprint back to the game, as they continued to commit miscues on fastbreak plays.

Besides their er-

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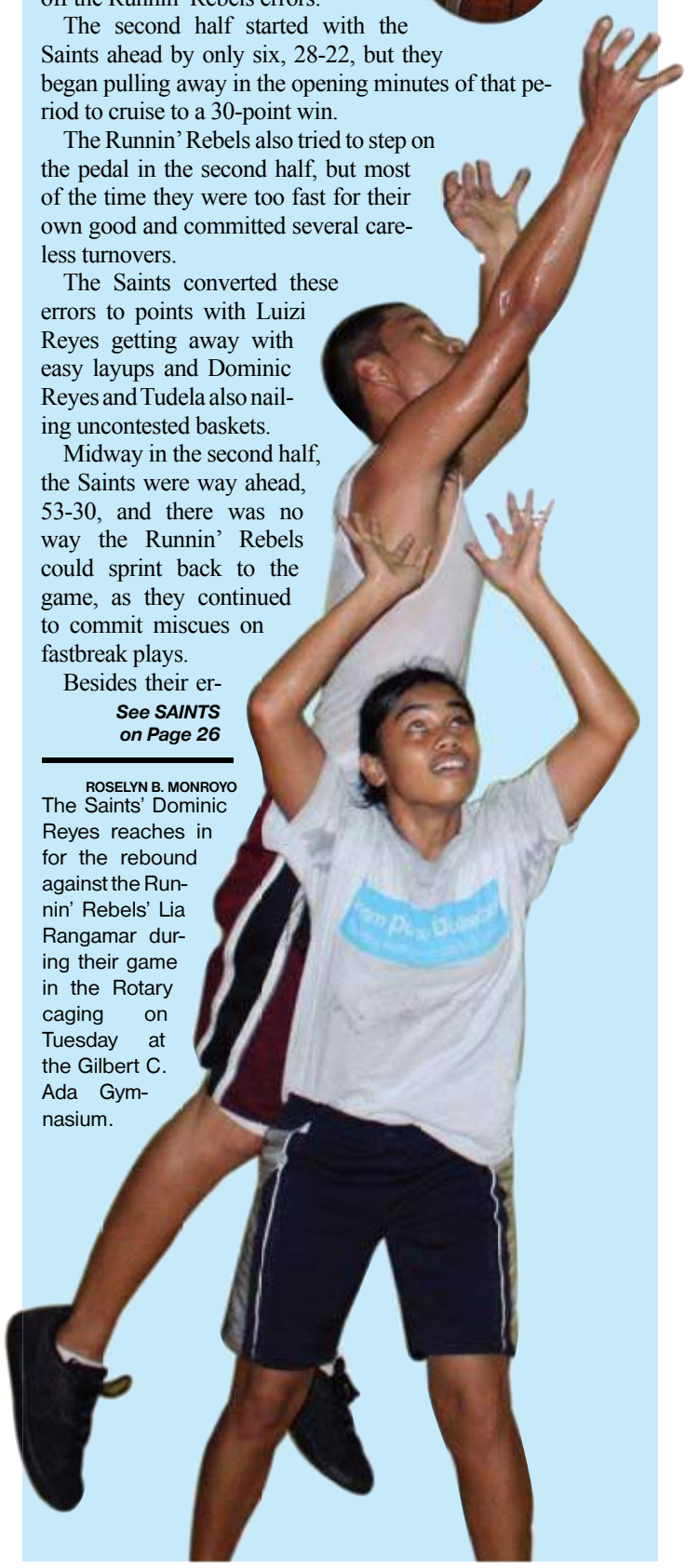

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Saints' Dominic Reyes reaches in for the rebound against the Runnin' Rebels' Lia Rangamar during their game in the Rotary caging on Tuesday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Rota sends kudos to BANMI for donation, clinic

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Participants in the Level O coaching and refereeing clinic show their certificate of completion and pose with the donations from FIBA Oceania, through BANMI. Joining them in the photo are Martin T. Mendiola, NMC-Rota Program Site Coordinator, back row right, and DCCA Rota resident director Julita Calvo, front right.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Rota expressed its appreciation to Basketball Association of Northern Mariana Islands for its donation and for conducting a clinic on the island last week.

Julita Calvo, Rota resident director of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs, said BANMI and its supporters' generosity will go a long way as far as the development of basketball among the youth is concerned.

"We would like to thank BANMI, Mr. Elias Rangamar and Gabriel White, for reaching out to Rota youth and our adult residents who want to help these young ones get involved in basketball and other sports," Calvo said in a telephone interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday.

Rangamar and White were on Rota from Sept. 29 to Oct. 1 to conduct a Level 0 coaching and refereeing course, which drew six participants. The two BANMI officials also taught participants the administrative aspect of the sport.

"Rota DCCA acting sports coordinator, Roddy Songao Manglona, contacted BANMI officials requesting developmental assistance to revive the basketball community of Rota.

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mieko Carey, seen here going for the second lap in the swim leg of the 2009 XTERRA Saipan Championship early this year, will be holding a swim clinic this Saturday before leaving for Hawaii for the 2009 XTERRA World Championship.

Mieko to hold fundraising swim clinic Saturday

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

XTERRA World Championship-bound Mieko Carey will be holding a fundraising swim clinic this Saturday at the Palms Resort pool.

The swim lesson will run from 4pm to 5:30pm and is open only to the first 15 participants to register. Entry fee is $20 per swimmer and all proceeds will be used to defray the cost of Carey's trip to Maui, Hawaii for the 2009 XTERRA World Championship.

"The clinic is open only to a maximum of 15 swimmers for safety and quality purposes," Carey said.

She added the clinic is open to interested individuals who want to learn the basics of swimming or those who wish to improve

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